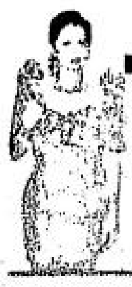


■ Lifestyle / G1
Fashion as Pinoy art form

■ Business / B1
Stocks up 1.33%, hit 3½-year high

■ Across / A18
Baguio dump swallows 2 bulldozers

■ News / A2
DOJ admits Nida case evidence weak

■ World / A10
Talks fail to free hundreds of Russian hostages

■ Metro / A22
Huge billboards banned on major Metro roads

It's a girl for Sharon and Kiko

JDV gets P350M in pledges on plane over China Sea

By TJ Burgonio

BEIJING (via PLDT)—Philippine Airlines Flight PR 001 was streaking thousands of miles over central China yesterday when House Speaker Jose de Venecia rose from his seat and made his sales pitch.

By the time the plane landed, De Venecia

JDV GETS/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Cops in austerity mode, too, vow to chip in P25M

By C. Esguerra, L. del Puerto and C. Balana

AS THOUGH stung by the austerity bug, Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay has proudly pledged a fraction

COPS/ A8

ISAMA PATI KOTONG!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, September 3, 2004 ★★★ 76 pages / 8 sections / vol. 19 / no. 268 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Cooking gas, power rates up

By Abigail L. Ho and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NO MORE hot baths in the morning for families who would now find cooking gas too expensive for heating water.

Edwin Sallan, a freelance journalist who has to help feed at least five mouths, says the high cost of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has led to the imposition of a "no hot bath" rule in their house at Better Living Subdivision in Parañaque City.

Since January, LPG prices have gone up eight times for a total of P6.85 per kilogram. The increases translate to a whopping P75.35 per 11-kg cylinder.

As of Aug. 23, an 11-kg cylinder of Shellane cost between P367.20 and P377.20; Caltex LPG, P385.90; TotalGaz, P352.20, and Petron Gasul, between P338.50 and P348.50.

Now the price of cooking gas is going up again, this time by a huge P1.50 per kg, or P16.50 per tank, because of high world crude prices. Members of the LPG Marketers Association, a group of LPG refillers, in fact already raised cooking gas prices by that amount yesterday.

To save on LPG, Sallan relates that his family also has resorted to heating leftover food in the microwave oven instead of on the gas stove, forgetting that electricity costs have also gone up and will continue to go up.

Malacañang is endorsing the National Power Corp.'s petition to increase its rates after admitting that President Macapagal-Arroyo's populist decision to defer the state-owned power generator's rate increase two years ago had contributed to the coun-

COOKING/ A20

VAL HANDUMON

WHAT is riveting the attention of President Macapagal-Arroyo, her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and other members of her official party?

GMA takes time off for terra cotta warriors

By TJ Burgonio

BEIJING (via PLDT)—Taking time off from her hectic itinerary, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday made a brief tour of a museum housing the world-famous terra cotta warriors in Xi'an City.

The President, her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and members of the official delegation rose early to take the special Philippine Airlines flight from Beijing to Xi'an at 7:45 a.m.

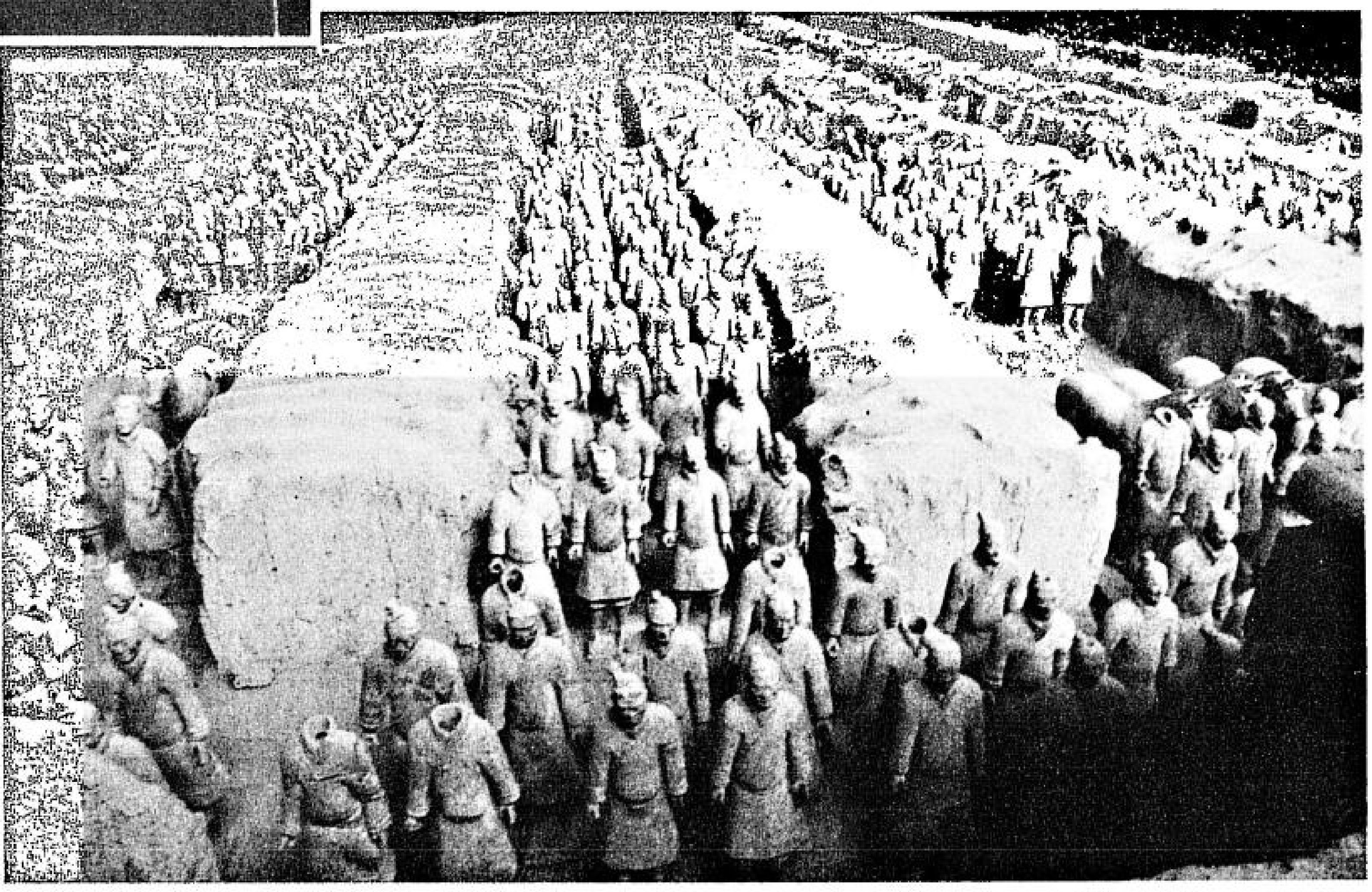
They were greeted by cold weather spawned by a slight drizzle when they disembarked at the international airport in Xi'an, which is an hour and a half away from the capital.

Escorted by Shaanxi Vice Gov. Zhu Jingzhi, Ms Arroyo walked through the museum housing three excavations of life-size terra cotta warriors and horses for some 20 minutes.

She looked pleased as she posed for her husband, a photography enthusiast, with rows of the clay figures standing in battle formation in the yawning pit as a backdrop.

She nodded as a Chinese wom-

GMA TAKES/ A20



THE OBJECT of the First Gentleman's camera eye is this archeological treasure—life-size terra cotta warriors and horses, some headless, at a museum in Xi'an City.

VAL HANDUMON

House bill seeks to grant amnesty to tax cheats

By Carlito Pablo

ONE down, seven to go.

The House ways and means committee has unanimously agreed to approve next week a bill granting amnesty to erring taxpayers.

Malacañang had asked Congress to approve eight revenue measures aimed at raising a total of P80 billion for the cash-strapped government.

Data from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) showed that the government has receivables of at least P55 billion in unpaid taxes, according to Rep. Jesli Lapus (NPC, Tarlac), chair of the committee.

"Even if we collect only 10 percent, for example, depending on the final features of the bill, that's P5.5 billion," Lapus said in an interview.

Representatives Eric Singson (LP, Ilocos Sur) and Danilo Suarez (LP, Quezon) earlier filed their respective versions of a tax amnesty bill.

In a statement, Singson said the House committee on ways and means would approve next week a consolidated bill granting amnesty for all unpaid BIR taxes for 2003 and the years before.

Singson said the bill would raise P7 billion to P20 billion this year.

If approved by Congress, this would be the first legislated tax amnesty measure.

"Previous tax amnesty measures were implemented through presidential decree and executive order," Singson noted.

He noted that recent efforts at

HOUSE/ A8

POST-ABORTION CARE

Hospitals slam doors on 'A' cases

(Editor's note: All conversations quoted here were conducted in Filipino.)

By Stella O. Gonzales

(First of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

ELLEN was almost four months pregnant when she began bleeding slightly. She ignored it.

After almost a month, the mother of three started discharging globs of blood and bits of flesh as she peed. It was almost midnight and she was alone in an apartment rented by her co-workers in a nightclub in Pasay City.

Ellen phoned her elder sister, who took her to a nearby public hospital.

The doctors examined her and then said there was no equipment for her treatment. They made her sign a waiver and turned her away, but not before shouting at her.

They told her that what she had done was a sin, that she had taken some medicine to get rid of her baby, that she had just had an abortion.

Ellen was aghast. "No, I only took Alaxan (a

HOSPITALS/ A21

DAY OF ACQUITTALS

GETTY IMAGES/AFP

LEGAL slam dunk: Kobe Bryant looks at his lawyer, Pamela Mackey, as he leaves Eagle County Justice Center in Colorado.

Judge drops rape case vs Bryant

EAGLE, Colorado—In essence, the writing was on the wall.

After a yearlong drama and a series of gaffes, the sexual assault charge against Los Angeles Lakers basketball star Kobe Bryant was dismissed on Wednesday after his accuser refused to testify.

With jury selection under way, the judge threw out the case after prosecutors said the 20-year-old woman accusing Bryant of rape

JUDGE/ A8

A FREE Anwar Ibrahim hugs his wife Wan Azizah Ismail during a press conference in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

AP

Anwar cleared, freed from prison

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia—Malaysia's highest court overturned the sodomy conviction of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Thursday and freed him from prison—exactly six years after his removal from office had triggered the country's worst political crisis.

A panel of the Federal Court ruled 2-1 to reverse the conviction against Anwar. He was expected to travel to Germany for surgery to treat a back injury stemming from a police beating in 1998.

Anwar was once considered the heir-apparent of his mentor-turned-nemesis, then-Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. But Mahathir fired him, touching off widespread political turmoil.

Prime Minister Ahmad Abdullah Badawi, who succeeded Anwar as Mahathir's handpicked heir, had been expected to take a softer line toward Anwar and put the divisive issue behind Malaysia after he took office last year.

In his first remarks to reporters, Anwar claimed that the convictions against him had been "highly politically motivat-

ANWAR/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2004

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/03/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

DOJ: Nida case evidence weak

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday admitted the government's evidence in the Nida Blanca murder case was merely "circumstantial" and may not even "stand up in court."

Gonzalez said the government would have to present a stronger case if it was to again ask the United States to extradite Rod Lauren Strunk, Blanca's widower and the principal suspect in the killing.

He said Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño briefed him on the status of the case after he formally took over at the DOJ on Wednesday.

"Chief Zuño himself admits that all evidence available may not stand up in court. So the idea, he said, [is] to [send] the case [back] to the National Bureau of Investigation for further evidence-gathering," Gonzalez said.

The DOJ on Feb. 14, 2003, charged Strunk, Philip Medel Jr. and a Jane Doe with Blanca's murder before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court.

Gonzalez said the NBI would have to find "more substantial" evidence than was presented before the Pasig court if the DOJ were to ask the US again to extradite Strunk.

Basically circumstantial

But he said that while the evidence against the accused was "really basically circumstantial," it may still be enough to secure a conviction.

"I want to make this clear, circumstantial evidence can also convict," he said.

California Judge Gregory Hollows denied the government's first extradition petition in November 2003 due to the "conflicting and inconsistent evidence" that was submitted against Strunk.

Former acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez last week said the DOJ had gathered new evidence in the case and that it would be enough to address the concerns raised by Hollows.

Gonzalez, however, said he had not seen any of the purported new evidence.

Won't get fair trial

"I do not know if the NBI has unearthed something new," he said.

Blanca was found stabbed to death in her car on Nov. 7, 2001. Strunk left the Philippines on Jan. 21, 2002 to visit his sick mother in California, promising to return.

Later, he changed his mind, saying he would not get a fair trial in the Philippines.

Get back at Americans

Gonzalez, meanwhile, said he told Zuño "to make it difficult" for the Americans to get back wanted persons from the Philippines.

"Confidentially, I told Chief Zuño to make it difficult for them because they are making it difficult for us to extradite (persons) we want," Gonzalez said.

Filipino seamen mutiny

By Martin P. Marfil

FILIPINO seamen went on strike yesterday and took over 10 fishing vessels off Papua New Guinea, according to sketchy reports reaching the Department of Labor and Employment.

About 150 crewmen on board 10 fishing vessels refused to work the boats that were in waters near the capital of Port Moresby, said labor assistant secretary Benedicto Bitonio Jr., the new DOLE spokesperson.

Bitonio said the crewmen took over command of the ships and demanded an increase in wages, improved working conditions and other benefits.

The ships all bore Philippine flags and were owned by RD Fishing, which is based in General Santos City.

"They were trying to claim international wages because they were fishing in international waters,'" Bitonio said, after checking with labor officials in General Santos City.

He said that according to government labor policy, crewmen's wages are based on the existing regional rates of the employer firm's place of business.

Bitonio said that Philippine Ambassador to Papua New Guinea Bienvenido Tejano was negotiating with the crewmen through the ship's communication facilities.

"He wants to know if they still want to work or if they are merely dramatizing their plight," the DOLE spokesperson said.

At the same time, DOLE officials have ordered the DOLE regional director in General Santos to investigate RD Fishing.

Erap case bellwether of corruption—Marcelo

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FRUSTRATED over the continued delay in the plunder and corruption trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo yesterday said that if Estrada should get away scot-free the country may as well give up its fight against corruption.

"We have to remember this case. If this battle is not won, the war against corruption will be forever lost," Marcelo said at a forum at the Ramon Magsaysay Center on Wednesday.

He was joined at the forum by another graft-buster, Haydee Yorac, the chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government and this year's recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service.

Marcelo said that Estrada has managed to delay presenting his defense for more than a year.

He noted that the prosecution rested its case way back in April 2003.

"Now we don't see any people rallying (because) the cases are taking too long. It's only the prosecutors who are complaining," Marcelo said.

Don't lose interest

He urged the Filipino public not to lose interest in the case against Estrada which he considers to be the banner case in the fight against corruption.

"There should be a closure," he said.

Estrada was ousted amid corruption and graft allegations during the second Edsa people power uprising of January 2001.

Marcelo said the first people power revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos did not have "closure" since not one of the Marcoses or their cronies and associates was jailed for corruption.

"If no one gets jailed this time, then we're lost," Marcelo said.

Marcelo was one of the private prosecutors at Estrada's impeachment trial that preceded his ouster.

Yorac, meanwhile, said she was staying put at the PCGG.

Private practice

Yorac, who has just returned from a month-long vacation and medical checkup in the United States, earlier said she wanted to return to private practice which she said was less stressful than government work.

The PCGG was apparently swayed by the appeals of coconut farmer groups which wanted her to continue to lead efforts to recover the coconut levy funds and other ill-gotten wealth of Marcos and his cronies..

"She has been asked by the coconut farmers to stay on. So she said yes," said PCGG Commissioner Vyva Aguirre.

Miraculous recovery

Yorac miraculously recovered from a stroke, a cancer operation, severe pneumonia and kidney malfunction last year.

She came home from the US last week in time to receive the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service.

The awards foundation cited Yorac for keeping the public's confidence in government "through service of exceptional integrity and rigor and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law."

The PCGG, meanwhile, is short of two commissioners.

Resignation

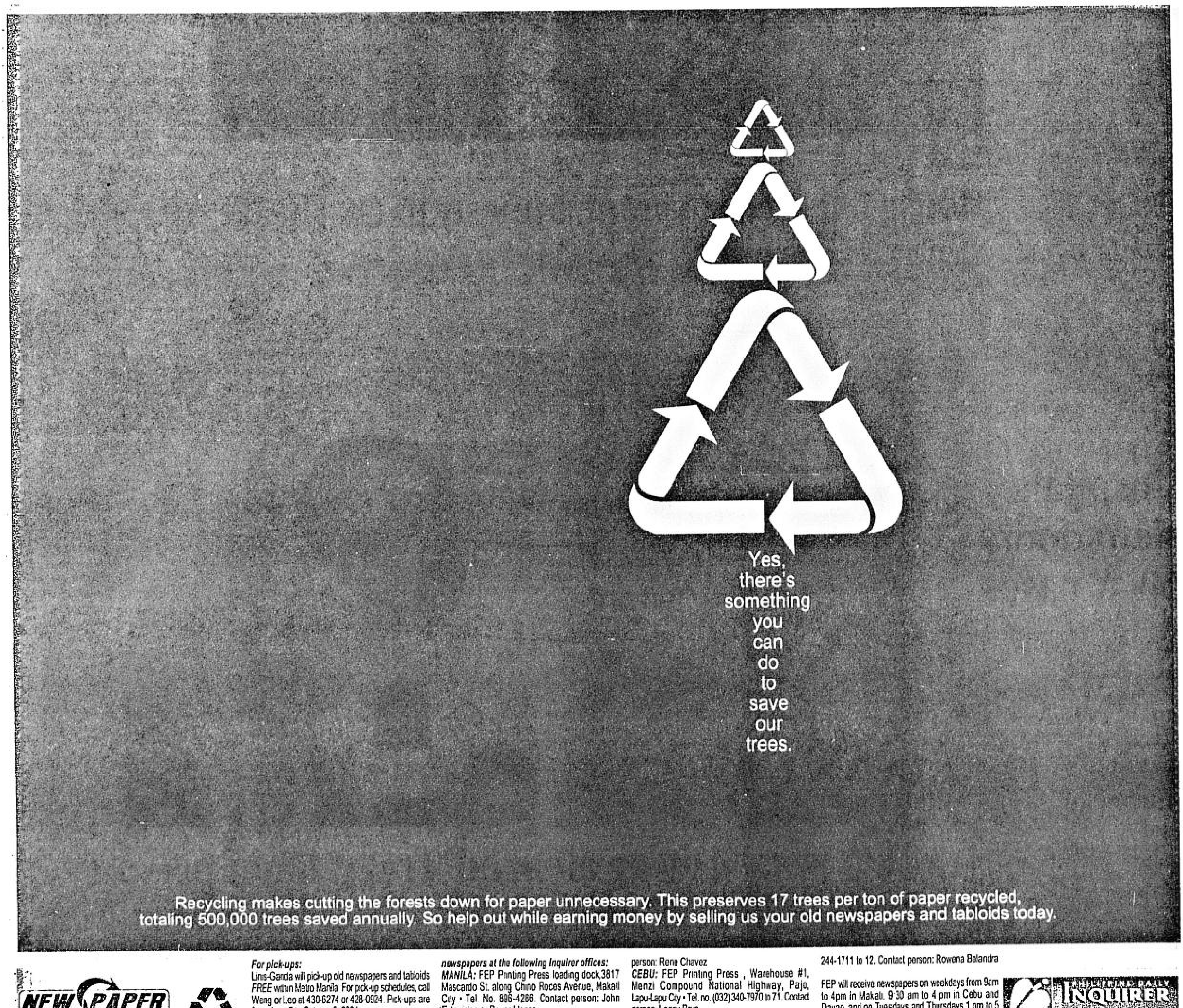
Commissioner Ruben Carranza, who was in charge of litigation, resigned on Aug. 11 to pursue graduate studies at New York University.

Last May, Commissioner Victoria Avena also resigned to return to the University of the Philippines College of Law faculty.

That left Yorac, Aguirre and William Dichoso in the PCGG.

Aguirre said Carranza opted to resign since he would be away for at least 10 months.

"He said if he did not go, he would lose the scholarship," Aguirre said.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Women's health bill on tap

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Health said it would draft its own version of the controversial reproductive health bill that failed to pass in the last Congress.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the DOH had a technical working group studying all the reproductive health bills that had been filed in the present Congress and would try to create its own version.

Dayrit met on Wednesday with House members at a forum sponsored by the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development Foundation who are pushing for the passage of a law that would ensure medical care for mothers and children.

The PLCPD is one of the most vocal critics of the health secretary who has been criticized by population control advocates for saying that the health department was not mandated to control population growth.

"We have a group working on that already," Dayrit said when a House member suggested that the DOH come up with its own bill that could be presented to legislators.

"If it's necessary for the RH bill to come from the DOH, then let it be. Many legislators would gladly sponsor such a bill, since we're not arguing over substance, and many of the RH provisions would address the DOH's goals," said Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio.

She said that letting the health department come up with its own reproductive health proposal would ensure that the health secretary would be 100 percent behind the bill.

She said the DOH did not support the previous reproductive health bill.

Dayrit said it was because the language was "problematic."

The Catholic Church had lobbied actively against previous House Bill 4110, saying that it condoned abortion.

Custodio said the bill only mandated the provision of medical care for women who had had abortions.

"The government is not supposed to castigate women who had abortions. Whatever happens, it is the doctor's job to save lives, whether it is a criminal's or a good person's," she said.

On Wednesday, Dayrit called for a top-level convention of the board of the Commission on Population (PopCom) to study the country's population growth.

Dayrit said he would get the secretaries of eight other government agencies, along with the UP Population Institute and three representatives of the private sector, to sit down and discuss the population agenda within the month.

In previous meetings, Cabinet members simply sent their representatives to tackle technical aspects of the country's population program.

"This time, we're getting all the secretaries to be part of the process of reviewing bills on population and reproductive health," Dayrit said at the same PLCPD forum.

This could be the first time since the Ramos administration that PopCom's top officials will be assembled for something other than its quarterly board meeting, said its executive director Tomas Osias.

PopCom, which used to be under the National Economic Development Authority, was tasked ensuring the consistency of population growth and distribution with the social and economic development of the country.

It was transferred to the Department of Health last year, although Dayrit said its mandate under Neda was not in any way different from its role under the DOH.

Dayrit said the government was fully behind efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, which includes reducing maternal and children mortality rates by 2015.

Want to quit smoking? Here's how

By Blanche S. Rivera

ARE YOU desperately trying to quit smoking but can't?

Try cultivating the following "quitting habits" recommended by the Department of Health.

The first and crucial step, of course, is to decide to quit.

It may help your resolve if you knew that smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer in the country, according to HealthBeat, the official publication of the DOH.

Smoking causes small cell carcinoma, which accounts for 22 percent of all lung cancer cases in the country. Lung cancer kills 55 Filipinos every day and 20,000 Filipinos every year.

Nine out of 10 men who die from lung cancer are smokers. Cancer usually starts with a chronic cough, chest pains and shortness of breath. In later stages, the person suffers from loss of weight, fatigue, hoarseness, difficulty in swallowing and shortness of breath.

If your spirit is willing, but your body has other plans, here's what you should do:

- Quit gradually. Abstain from smoking for an entire hour and start lengthening that time by half-hours.
- Change to a brand of cigarettes you don't like. Smoking will have less appeal if you don't like the taste.
- Make it hard for yourself to smoke.Wrap the cigarette pack with elastic bands. Smoke with your left hand if you usually smoke with your right.
- If you drink coffee and smoke, switch to juice or iced tea. This could break the habit formed by association.
- Tell your friends you are quitting smoking. It helps to publicly denounce the habit so you would be more committed.
- If you smoke to relieve stress, then exercise. Experts agree that exercise is one of the best remedies for stress. When you exercise, you produce endorphins which naturally relieve pain and induce feelings of well-being and relaxation.
- Save the money you would have spent on cigarettes and treat yourself to something nice.
- It may take several attempts before you can completely kick the habit. The important thing is not to give up.

'Obet' clarifies ₱2-B Duty Free choco deal

By Armand N. Nocum

FORMER Tourism Secretary Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan yesterday said that before he left the tourism department he had ordered a renegotiation of the P2-billion chocolate and snack concession contract at Duty Free Philippines.

Pagdanganan said that an Aug. 25 meeting of the Philippine Tourism Authority board, which he headed, had deferred ratification of the deal with Eastern Duty Free Management Services (EDF) after rival concessionaires submitted offers that would have given the government P180 million more in annual income.

He said the board passed two resolutions, one stating that the EDF deal was "not acceptable" and asking DFP general manager Michael Christian Kho to negotiate with EDF to match the price of the other concessionaires. If EDF agreed, then the contract would have been considered good as ratified, he said.

The second resolution said that if EDF did not agree to match the price, then the concession would be opened to others.

Pagdanganan defended the agreement that Kho had concluded with EDF on July 30, saying that it was the "best deal at that time" and that "the others were not good enough."

Pagdanganan, who is now chair and president of the state-owned Philippine International Trading Corp., was responding to reports about a graft complaint filed against him with the Ombudsman's office by the Duty Free Philippines Employees Association (DFPEA).

The DFPEA alleged that Pagdanganan had worked to ratify the five-year P2-billion deal with the British Virgin Islands-based EDF before leaving the DOT. It said the deal would result in a loss of P336 million a year for the government.

Kho yesterday said the July 30 agreement between him and the EDF was intended to give the government $7 million in "minimum annual guaranteed income."

Contrary to DFPEA allegations that the government would lose P336 million a year, or P1.6 billion in five years, Kho said the government even stood to earn more.

As to the union's claim that the DFP was giving away the chocolate concession—considered the cash cow of the EDF—at a time of financial crisis, Kho said the DFP would even be saving some money.

Kho said the deal would free up $8 million of borrowed money now tied up in chocolate inventories.

The deal provides that EDF "supply" the chocolate and confectioneries on consignment, credit or discount basis.

He said chocolate was a "difficult category to manage" because there is a bigger chance of "spoilage," the goods having a shelf life of only six months before they are considered expired.

He also downplayed union fears that the deal would result in a loss of jobs.

EDF managing director David Weil yesterday defended his firm's supply contract with the DFP as having gone through a rigorous process and full scrutiny and approval of the PTA board, the DFP's supervisory body.

He said the "supply accord was done with faithful adherence to DFP's long-established protocols with regard to other similar arrangements stretching back to 1989."

National Peace Consciousness Month 2004

UNITY: THE PATH TO PEACE

PAGKAKAISA: LANDAS TUNGO SA KAPAYAPAAN

MESSAGE OF HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

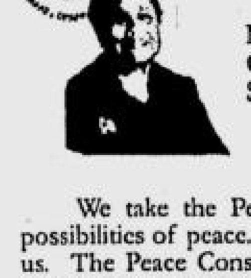
My vision of peace is based on our unity as a nation.

The unity we seek is not one of conformity but of unwavering respect for the institutions of democracy, a modern country founded on social justice and economic prosperity. Our nationhood is built on common values of hard work, shared sacrifice, and love of country.

We need to face the deep divisions of our nation squarely, based on a search for truth and genuine solutions, engaging all segments of society behind a new government of political reform and change.

The government must take tough choices, but these, I have promised, will be tougher on those who have it easy than on those who have it tough already. In this way alone lies unity and not exploitation and division.

On the occasion of the Peace Month celebration, I would like to reiterate my call for all to come together and tear down the barriers of social division, build up economic opportunity for the poor, and establish justice for all. This is the foundation of our genuine unity; this is the foundation of our peace.



MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE PEACE PROCESS SECRETARY TERESITA QUINTOS-DELES

We take the Peace Consciousness Month as an occasion to celebrate the possibilities of peace. We know how, daily, images of violence and division confront us. The Peace Consciousness Month is an occasion to acknowledge that, in this world, there is in fact another experience that could be the source of another light, another direction.

In our work at OPAPP, we find a wealth of images of people working across divides, across traditional fighting lines, and beyond war zones – men, women, children reaching to their counterparts on the other side in their search for ways to rebuild shattered lives, families, and dreams. We will endeavor, for the next 30 days, to increase public awareness of these equally real images of peace.

The Peace Consciousness Month is centered on the theme of unity to enable us to appreciate the reality of our diversity as a critical element in sustaining peace. A peace based on unity is one where our nation's various cultures are acknowledged and respected, one where the voices of those of our contested identities are enlarged and truly heard. For the Filipino nation, a peace based on a monolithic shade of gray will not hold. For the Filipino nation, only a rainbow kind of peace will endure.

I hope a lively interaction will ensue based on this theme. We shall warmly appreciate all efforts to make the Peace Consciousness Month a truly meaningful celebration.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

30 August
- Launch of the Twinning Project between Rajah Muda High School, Pikit, Cotabato and Miriam College, Quezon City

1 September
- E.O.19 Anniversary: Creation of the National Unification Commission
- Launch of the Letter Writing Campaign on "*No to War Toys This Christmas*", Negros Occidental
- Launch of the National Poster Making Contest for Peace, DepEd, Pasig City

2 September
- GRP-MNLF Final Peace Agreement Anniversary

3 September
- Launch of Gawad Kalinga–JEMC Partnership "*Community Build Day*," Talacdan, Cauayan, Negros Occidental

13 September
- GRP-CPLA Final Peace Agreement Anniversary

15 September
- E.O. 125 Anniversary: Defining a Comprehensive Peace Process and creating the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process

17-19 September
- OPAPP-NYC Peace Sessions, Gen. Santos and Kidapawan City

19 September
- International Decade of Peace for Children of the World 2001-2010
- Launch of the La Sallette Institute on Reconciliation

21 September
- UN International Day of Peace
- Peace Month Exhibit and Book Launching, SM Megamall
- Interfaith Dialogue Series, Isabela City, Basilan (Association of Muslim Religious and Lay Leaders of Basilan Province)
- An Evening to Honor the Maryknoll/ Miriam College Alumnae Peace Advocates, Our Lady's Court, Miriam College, Q.C.

21-24 September
- CINEMA Without Borders: A Showcase of Film and Video Documentation on Peace, Justice and Human Rights, Phil. Normal University, Manila
- International Day of Peace Exhibit "*Campaign Against Small Arms*"
- Poster Making on "*No War Toys this Christmas,*" Miriam College

24-26 September
- Peace Camp: "*Handling Conflict Towards Transformation: A Challenge for the Youth,*" Negros Occ. (Pax Christi Pilipinas)

26 September
- Bike for Peace, Peace Bell, Quezon Memorial Circle, Q.C.
- Human Rights Concert, San Rafael Parish, Balut, Tondo, Mla.

30 September
- PEACE CONCERT and Awarding of Poster Making Contest Winners, ULTRA, Pasig City

For details:
Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
7/F Agustin I Bldg, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 636-0701 to 06 loc. 823 or 826 /www.opapp.gov.ph

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 3, 2004
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 4:1-5
Gospel: Lk 5:33-39

Some people asked Jesus, "The disciples of John fast often and say long prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why is it that your disciples eat and drink?" Then Jesus said to them, "You can't make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them. But later the bridegroom will be taken from them and they will fast in those days."

Jesus also told them this parable, "No one tears a piece from a new coat to put it on an old one; otherwise the new will be torn and the piece taken from the new will not match the old. No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed as well. But new wine must be put into fresh skins. Yet no one who has tasted old wine is eager to get new wine, but says: The old is good."

Commentary

"NEW wine must be put into fresh skins." In the Lord's time wine was not kept in bottles but in skins. When the new wine was placed in a skin, it continued to ferment, giving off carbon dioxide. An old skin had not the elasticity of a new one, and so it would burst and the wine was lost. This says to us: don't let your mind become like an old wine-skin. Our faith makes unconditional demands on us throughout our lives. It requires us to make immense leaps of sympathy and forgiveness; it asks us to live for God, not for earthly power and wealth; it asks us to put aside self-will and to live for others; it asks us to put to death our worldly pride and vanity, and to imitate the self-emptying (kenosis), the poverty of Christ; it asks us to lay down our very lives for our brothers and sisters; most challenging of all, it asks us to love our enemies. This was a new way to live, it was the new wine, requiring a new mind, new structures. The world, even at that time, was weary of the old ways of tyranny. It has even more reason to be tired of them now. That the Gospel still appears new and revolutionary is evidence that we haven't moved very far. The Gospel will always be News to us.

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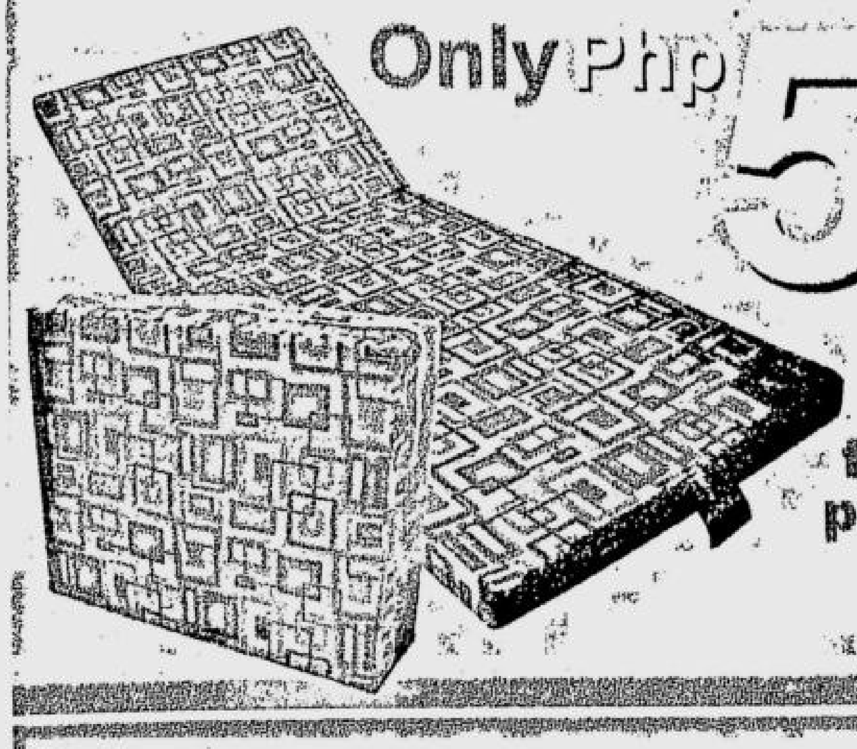

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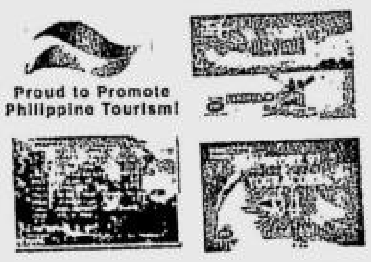

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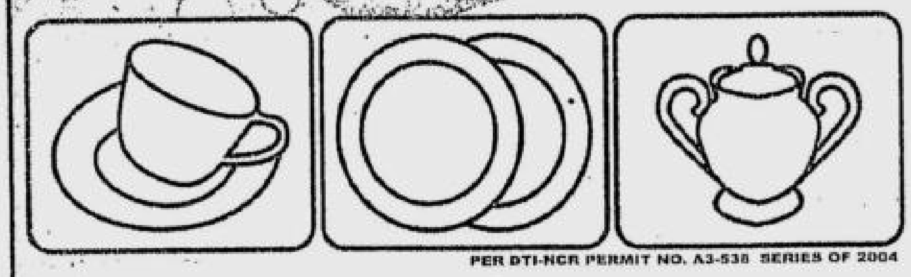

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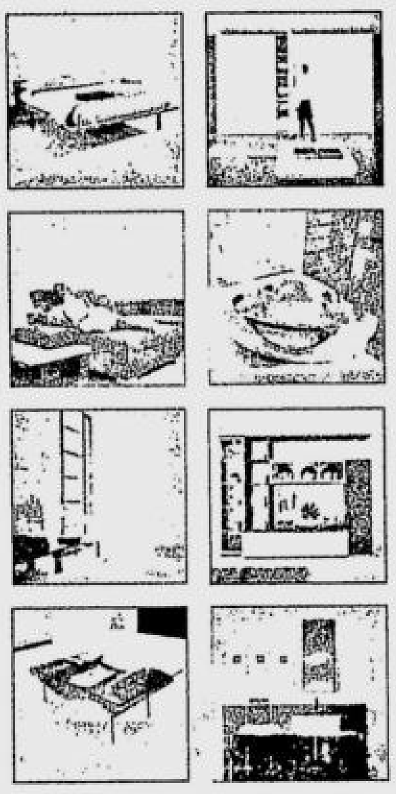

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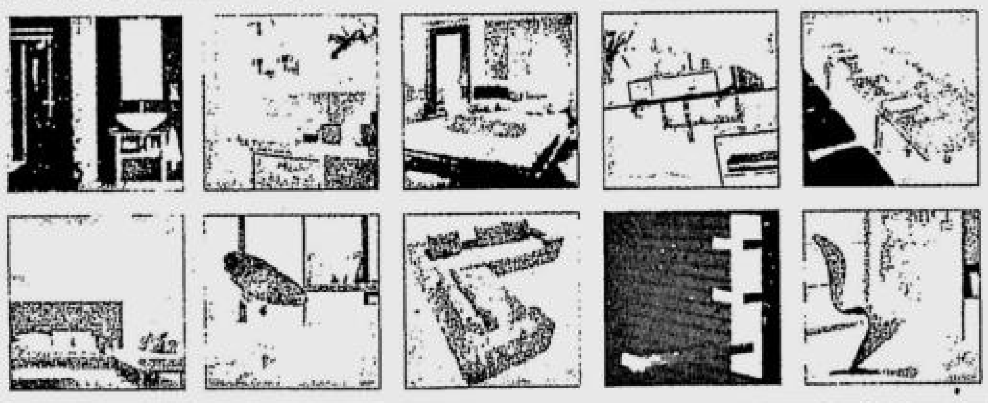

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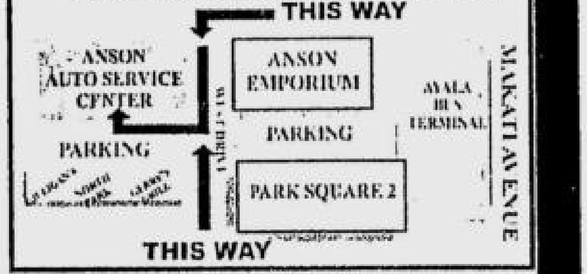

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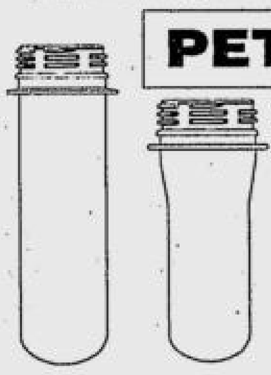

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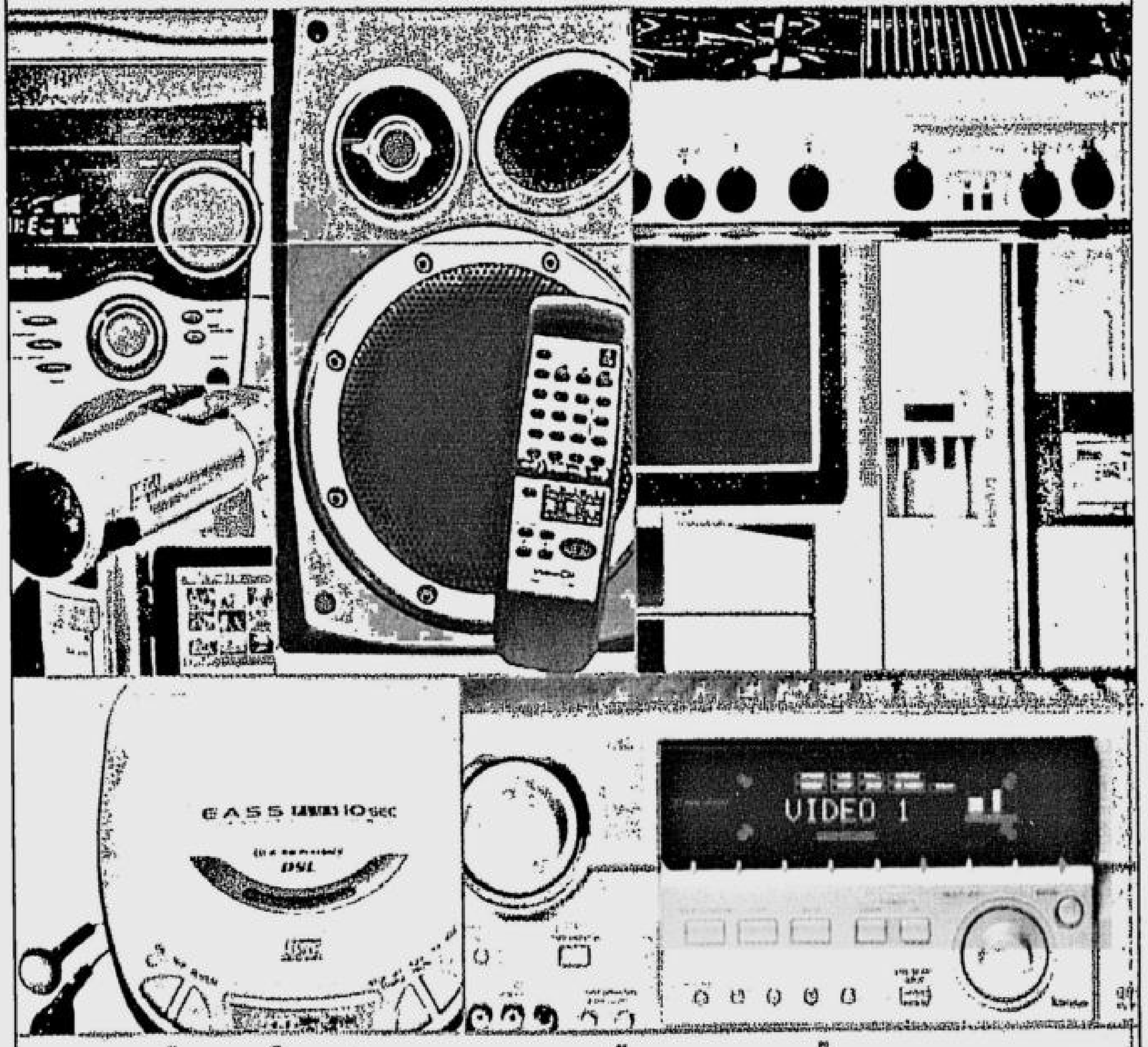

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Cops in austerity mode, too, vow to chip in ₱25M

From page A1

of his salary to help the government. But he'd like the whole force to do the same.

It's "a sacrifice" that should be considered "as soon as possible," Aglipay said yesterday as he asked all 115,000 police officers under his 11-day-old leadership to give up one day's wages in favor of their impoverished country.

"The idea didn't come from me," Aglipay told the Inquirer, obviously wary of criticism. "Several policemen told me they wanted to [do it]." He said the goal was to raise P25 million, which would be donated to the National Treasury.

He had reason to be cautious. On Tuesday, he paraded like criminals before the media six cops he had personally caught napping while on duty. The repercussions were far from pleasant.

The cash donation that he is seeking a bigger sacrifice for policemen in the lower rungs than for their officials. An ordinary patrolman's (Police Officer 1) gross monthly income is P10,713. A single day's wage at this level is P392. In comparison, Aglipay, as director general (four-star), makes P42,180 gross monthly, or P1,400 daily.

If they failed to meet the target, the top cop said, he would shell out another day's salary. But he was pretty sure a single round would do it, even if only half of the force cooperated, since the PNP spent about P50 million for daily wages.

All the valiant donors had to do, he said, was sign a waiver.

Easy? Not for one patrolman on Edsa in Quezon City, who winced upon hearing the news. He had been working four more hours than usual, for a total of 12 a day, he said, to comply with Aglipay's program of increased police visibility.

"We did not complain," he told the Inquirer on behalf of his comrades. "But we were hoping [the new leadership] could give us more benefits."

Higher-ups, too

They should be happy to know that the bosses have had to modify their lifestyles, too. For example, top police officials in Metro Manila are no longer allowed to play golf on weekdays. And their motorcycle escorts will be stopped. Meaning, for one thing, they will now suffer traffic jams like the rest of the populace.

These are among the many fresh directives from the new National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Avelino Razon. In a single day, Aug. 26, six such orders landed on the desks of city and town police chiefs.

Razon said motorcycle escorts for ranking officials depleted the already small number of patrol vehicles. So only the PNP chief would continue to enjoy the privilege, he said.

For the same reason, there will be no more NCRPO motorcycles used for escorts requested during weddings and funerals—which, Razon said, "smacks of moonlighting"—and no more "security service" for private individuals.

And cutting into patrol cops' personal austerity programs, Razon likewise banned "back riding" wives and girlfriends.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., Marikina police chief, welcomed the new directives, saying these should be the norm of conduct in the force. It's a "little overwhelming" at first, he said. "But as they say, if you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen."

Four-day week

Keeping stride, the House of Representatives readopted a four-day, 10-hour work schedule called "compressed workweek" starting yesterday.

House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno said Speaker Jose de Venecia issued the memorandum enforcing the scheme, first adopted in the 12th Congress, under which House employees worked from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Thursday.

In his circular, De Venecia said the practice "tremendously reduced" costs on utilities and other expenses.

Noel Albano, deputy secretary general for public affairs, said the House saved P50 million in 2003. The amount was turned over to the National Treasure in January.

"Unless extremely necessary," Albano said, overtime work with pay would be discouraged. This excluded the staff of the committee on appropriations, he said, because of the marathon hearings on the proposed national budget for 2005.

And no more committee hearings would be allowed in hotels and other places outside the House building in Quezon City, Albano added, "except those requiring public consultation."

Despite financial constraints in his own department, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez announced, also yesterday, that he would return at least P2 million to the National Treasury in support of the administration's austerity program.

"We have a very lean budget, but [on Wednesday] I found out that there was about P2 to 3 million left over from the DOJ's intelligence fund," Gonzalez explained. There was "no particular need" for the money at the moment, he said.

Mixed signals

There's been mixed signals from President Macapagal-Arroyo, who came under fire yesterday for bringing along relatives and her grandchildren's nannies on her visit to China—after ordering cuts on government spending.

Radio station dzBB poked fun at Ms Arroyo with an impromptu song asking Filipinos to save money while she took her daughters-in-law to China. The party left on Wednesday.

Top officials came to the President's rescue. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government shouldered only the expense for hotel rooms, plane tickets and allowances of Cabinet members, legislators, and the presidential security and communications staffs.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye defended First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's joining the state visit as "a matter of tradition." The couple's eldest son and Ms Arroyo's brother-in-law — both congressmen — were nominated by Speaker Jose de Venecia as part of the official delegation, Bunye added.

Bunye said the expenses of Arroyo's grandchildren and their nannies were funded privately.

In fact, Bunye said, the President's delegation had been "cut to the bare minimum," with only 16 people, including the first couple. But there are a total of 41 "support staff" from the Office of the President—security guards, press office staff and government broadcast stations covering the event, according to a Malacanang list.

Earlier this week, Ms Arroyo signed an order banning all foreign travel except for ministerial meetings and trips funded by grants. Unnecessary domestic trips, gifts and donations, and most celebrations and sports activities in government offices were also banned.

No sacred cows

Malacanang has already prohibited purchases of new government cars and launched an energy-saving campaign. There would be "no sacred cows" in the anti-corruption and austerity drives, the President vowed.

Yesterday, Bunye reiterated: "We have these two drives going together side by side and there will be no exceptions. The measures apply equally to all."

Meanwhile, the multimillion-peso makeover of a building inside the Palace premises continues.

"It is part of the Malacañang Museum," Bunye said of the ground floor of the Kalayaan Hall building. He did not disclose the amount allotted for the facelift, which has been going on since 2002, and is being overseen by Jeremy Barnes, presidential adviser on historical affairs.

But the funds will come from the National Historical Institute which has a budget of P92.662 million this year and P90.922 million last year. Barnes was unavailable for comment. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Agence France-Presse*

House bill seeks to grant amnesty to tax cheats

From page A1

increasing the level of tax consciousness "seem not enough to encourage those in the underground economy to comply with present tax laws."

"This tax amnesty program will provide (those in the underground economy) with the opportunity to mend their ways and join the tax rolls without anxiety that their past activities will be subjected to audit and investigation," he said.

Explaining the proposed law in broad terms, Lapus said the amnesty would require the filing of statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) for taxable year 2003.

"The net worth will be the basis of computing how much taxes will go to the government," Lapus said.

The bill is not particularly geared toward a one-time payment but aims to expand the tax base, according to Lapus.

As Singson noted: "Long-term benefits will be equally realized by the prospects of improved tax collection from the expanded taxpayers' base."

Lapus said that business chambers had manifested their agreement to a tax amnesty program.

He said the proposed amnesty would also provide the basis for entering into compromise agreements with taxpayers charged by the government with tax evasion.

"In the past, there has been apprehension about entering into such compromise agreements in the absence of a law providing the basis for such agreements," Lapus said.

Anwar cleared, freed from prison

From page A1

ed" but that he bore no ill will toward Mahathir, who retired 10 months ago.

"I bear no malice against him. Let him retire," Anwar said. "I feel vindicated. This is all about justice."

But the combative Mahathir was unrepentant, telling reporters that he was "mildly surprised" by the ruling. He rejected accusations that he had orchestrated a judicial conspiracy to frame Anwar.

"I'm not going to lose any sleep," the 78-year-old Mahathir said. "I still believe that he's guilty. My conscience is clear."

Judge Abdul Hamid Mohamad read out the verdict over 1 1/2 hours. As it became apparent that Anwar, 57, would be freed, the prisoner—wearing a neck brace and confined to a wheelchair—exchanged excited glances with family members and gave a thumbs-up sign.

Conviction flawed

"We are not prepared to uphold the conviction," Abdul Hamid said. "We therefore allow this appeal and set aside the conviction and the sentence."

Abdul Hamid said the conviction was flawed because the chief prosecution witness, Azizan Abubakar, had repeatedly changed the dates that he claimed Anwar had had sex with him. Azizan had been the driver for Anwar's wife.

Anwar credited Abdullah—despite being a longtime rival from their hometown of Penang—for not interfering with the judiciary.

"You've got to recognize the fact that his predecessor wouldn't have made this judgment possible," Anwar said.

Anwar said that he felt "tired" and would wait for doctors to examine him before deciding his next move, but vowed that he would keep struggling for democratic reforms.

Hundreds of supporters cheered and shook Anwar's hands as he was wheeled out of the courtroom. His vehicle was escorted by police and he was expected to briefly go to his father's home, then to his own house.

Anwar has long claimed that the convictions were rigged to prevent him from challenging Mahathir for power.

"Finally, the courts have found courage which they never had under the Mahathir regime," said observer Param Cumaraswamy, vice president of the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists.

Anwar had been jailed since 1998 and had been expected to be in prison for another five years. A separate six-year corruption sentence ran out last year after it was reduced for good behavior.

Rumors of deal

The verdict followed rumors of behind-the-scenes dealings that Anwar would be freed in exchange for keeping a low profile and temporarily going to Germany, where he has begged to travel for surgery for years, claiming high-quality treatment was unavailable in Malaysia.

Family members and political colleagues said that Anwar would go to a hospital for provisional treatment and try to get a passport enabling him to fly to a clinic in Germany.

"We want to take him to Munich today," said Azizah Ismail, his wife, who called the verdict "a healing process for the nation."

Anwar would fly from Kuala Lumpur to Germany on a private jet provided by the Saudi Arabian government, said Ezam Mohamad Noor, a leader in the National Justice Party, founded after his arrest.

Anwar increasingly has been confined to a wheelchair from the injury, blamed partly on a beating inflicted by Malaysia's then-police chief while Anwar was chained to a cell bed after his arrest on Sept. 20, 1998, after leading a massive anti-Mahathir demonstration.

Despite the ruling, Anwar's future remains a pale shadow of the glittering career before him in the mid-1990s, when Mahathir rapidly promoted him through the Cabinet ranks and his charismatic, modern outlook made him the country's most popular politician.

Barred from office

Anwar will remain barred from seeking office for five years because of his conviction for corruption, which the courts have upheld in separate appeals proceedings. He will also likely remain an outcast from the United Malays National Organization, the ruling party now controlled by Abdullah.

The release of Anwar ends a long international embarrassment for Malaysia, when the United States and international human rights groups contended he was a political prisoner.

The US Embassy issued a statement welcoming his release and said it was "gratifying to see that justice has now been served. We hope that swift medical intervention will restore Anwar Ibrahim to good health."

Abdullah can now go to the ruling party conference later this month with his own moderate reputation enhanced and silence lingering uneasiness about Anwar's continued confinement.

Anwar and Mahathir had clashed over how to deal with the economic crisis that swept through Asia in 1997-98, but underlying it was a challenge Anwar was thought to be mounting to replace Mahathir, who had ruled since 1982.

Mahathir fired Anwar on Sept. 2, 1998. Anwar refused to go quietly and led tens of thousands of protesters demanding "Reformasi"—democratic reform and an end to corruption—that were the largest demonstrations orderly Malaysia had seen in decades.

Anwar was arrested, initially on national security grounds. He appeared in court Sept. 29, 1998, with a black eye and raising a clenched fist, a defiant image that blotted Mahathir's record as a statesman who transformed Malaysia into one of Asia's wealthiest countries.

Political prisoner

Anwar was charged with corruption and sodomy—a crime in mostly Muslim Malaysia—and convicted in separate trials widely seen as unfair. The United States and human rights groups labeled him a political prisoner.

Voters lashed out against Mahathir's government in 1999, giving an opposition that included an alliance of Islamic fundamentalists and the National Justice Party a record number of seats in Parliament.

But as the economy rebounded and the Sept. 11 terror attacks raised doubts in many minds about Anwar's own youthful past in Islamic politics, his cause faded as a public rallying point. Under Abdullah, the government obliterated the opposition in elections last March. *AP*

Judge drops rape case vs Bryant

From page A1

had decided not to participate.

But she isn't letting the NBA star off the hook just yet.

Bryant still faces her federal civil lawsuit seeking unspecified damages. That case is still on, said L. Lin Wood, the woman's attorney.

"There has been no settlement of the civil lawsuit and there have been no discussions concerning a settlement," he said.

Bryant tearfully admitted more than a year ago he had consensual sex with the then-19-year-old employee of a Vail-area resort where he stayed last summer. If convicted, the married father of a little girl could have faced four years to life in prison, or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to $750,000.

A difficult case to prove

The last-minute dismissal of the case followed months of gaffes by courthouse staff that put his 20-year-old accuser in an uncomfortable spotlight. A determined, well-financed legal assault from the NBA star's defense team also helped stop the trial before it began.

Legal experts say the prosecution also had a very difficult case to prove—a he-said-she-said in which the accuser told investigators she willingly flirted with Bryant and engaged in consensual kissing.

Complicating the case was a defense expert who said DNA evidence showed the woman slept with someone else not long after leaving Bryant's hotel room.

"What seems very apparent is the prosecution made missteps early on," said Denver attorney Lisa Wayne, who has defended numerous sexual assault cases. "They never got to know this woman."

Woman's sex life

A key blow to the prosecution came last month when District Judge Terry Ruckriegle agreed that the woman's sex life in the three days before her hospital exam could be admitted as evidence at the trial, which may have bolstered the defense contention that she slept with someone after leaving Bryant and before she went to the exam.

The case also was marred by a series of mistakes, many of them by people whom the woman's attorneys said she trusted the most.

The accuser's name was included in filings mistakenly posted on a state court website and a court reporter accidentally e-mailed transcripts of a closed-door hearing on the woman's sexual activities to seven news organizations, which published the details after winning a First Amendment court fight with the judge.

Within those transcripts was a prelude of what would have come at trial: Testimony from a defense forensics expert who said she was convinced the accuser had sex with someone else soon after leaving Bryant—a claim that goes to the heart of the woman's credibility and her image as a traumatized victim.

Kobe apologizes

The woman's attorney, John Clune, said those mistakes were key to his client's decision to drop out of the case.

The accuser's decision to file a civil lawsuit against Bryant was another blow to the case, because it gave defense attorneys a chance to argue the woman had a financial motive to accuse Bryant of assault.

Bryant's defense team has long argued she falsely accused him to gain the attention of a former boyfriend, and that she was given nearly $20,000 from a victims' compensation fund.

The 26-year-old Los Angeles Lakers guard issued a written apology that stopped short of taking responsibility for his actions.

"Although I truly believe this encounter between us was consensual, I recognize now that she did not and does not view this incident the same way I did," he said.

Sad day for justice

District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said he could have won the case, but he supported the woman's decision to withdraw, with a stipulation that charges will never be refiled.

"Today justice is sadly interrupted. The casualty in this interruption has been a brave young woman who was grievously hurt," Hurlbert said.

Victims' rights groups said the way the case disintegrated could force states to take another look at rape-shield laws, which typically bar the sex life of an alleged assault victim from being admitted as evidence.

Wendy Murphy, a professor at the New England School of Law in Boston and former prosecutor, said the case could shake many women's faith in the justice system.

"The rules, the laws, the things that are supposed to make us treat each other with civility are a big joke, it doesn't matter," she said.

Emotional scars

After mistakes that revealed her identity, at least two death threats and relentless media attention, Bryant's accuser apparently had had enough.

Neither Bryant nor his accuser were in the courtroom as the judge threw out the case.

Bryant said the civil case against him "will be decided by and between the parties directly involved in the incident and will no longer be a financial or emotional drain on the citizens of the state of Colorado."

"I also want to make it clear that I do not question the motives of this young woman," Bryant said. "No money has been paid to this woman. She has agreed that this statement will not be used against me in the civil case."

The civil lawsuit, like the criminal case, accuses Bryant of attacking the woman in his room at the Cordillera resort near Edwards, causing her emotional and physical problems that linger to this day.

Prosecutors said Bryant flirted with the woman, a front desk employee, during a tour of the resort. After the two ended up in his room, they began to kiss, which she acknowledged was consensual. Investigators have said the encounter turned violent and that she told Bryant "no" at least twice.

In the civil suit, the attorneys said at some point during the kissing "Bryant's voice became deeper and his acts became rougher" as he began to grope the woman. She asked him to stop, but Bryant allegedly blocked her exit, grabbed her and forced her over a chair to rape her. Bryant's hands were around the woman's neck, the attorneys said—"a perceived threat of potential strangulation if she resisted his advances."

District Attorney Hurlbert said he was confident that if a jury had been able to hear the alleged victim testify, Bryant would be convicted.

"The prosecution wants to try this case. I want to try this case," he said. "However, the victim has informed us after much of her own labored determination that she does not want to proceed. For this reason and this reason only I am dismissing the case."

Alleged hacker arrested

By Jerome Aning

IMMIGRATION agents have arrested an Indian woman alleged to be the leader of a syndicate responsible for hacking into the country's telecommunications system to make unauthorized telephone calls and for smuggling Indian nationals into the Philippines.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez presented to reporters yesterday Pooja Khemlani who was arrested earlier this week at her residence in Paco, Manila, after weeks of surveillance.

Khemlani was alleged to be the financier of a gang that tapped into the telephone systems of some 369 institutions, including companies, nine government agencies and seven foreign embassies, to make unauthorized long-distance calls for which they charged a fee.

The activities of the gang had cost the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. some P197 million in lost revenues, according to the immigration bureau.

Khemlani eluded arrest earlier when a joint police and immigration team arrested two other Indians and a Bangladeshi in July in connection with the same case.

Fernandez said Khemlani was also the principal suspect in the illegal entry of 11 Indian nationals who were arrested by immigration officers in General Santos City in 2002.

Immigration agent Carlito Bautista, who led the arresting team, said Khemlani gained permanent Philippine residency in 1997 when she applied for amnesty under the Alien Social Integration Act.

He said Khemlani was arrested after her husband, also an Indian citizen, reported her activities to the bureau.

Fernandez said Khemlani was also being investigated for alleged dollar-salting, drug-trafficking and smuggling of medicines and jewelry.

SC junks raps vs CA justices

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has dismissed for "utter lack of merit" a complaint of corruption filed by a lawyer against three Court of Appeals justices.

In an eight-page decision, the high court's Second Division dismissed the complaint brought by lawyer Rex Fernandez against Associate Justices Eubolo G. Verzola, Martin S. Villarama Jr. and Mario L. Guarina III.

The tribunal said Fernandez failed to substantiate his allegations and did not even state the specific "acts and omissions" that the justices were supposed to have committed.

The Supreme Court warned that litigants who filed "clearly malicious and unfounded administrative" complaints could be ordered to explain why they should not be cited for contempt.

"It must be stressed that the court will not shirk from its responsibility of imposing discipline upon its employees, judges and associate justices alike; but neither will it hesitate to shield them from unfounded suits that serve to disrupt rather than promote the orderly administration of justice," said the decision penned by Justice Romeo Callejo Sr.

Fernandez had alleged that the three CA justices' decision of June 19, 2003, reversing National Electrification Administration chief Fr. Francisco Silva's order dismissing an Aklan electric cooperative official was "a fruit of corruption."

"The CA decision is patently and obviously a fruit of corruption without even considering the backdrop of the whole case but by mere perusal of the decision," Fernandez had said.

He asked the Supreme Court to set aside the CA ruling through a petition for certiorari but included in it his administrative complaint.

The high court, however, said that charges "based on mere suspicion and speculation" could not be given credence.

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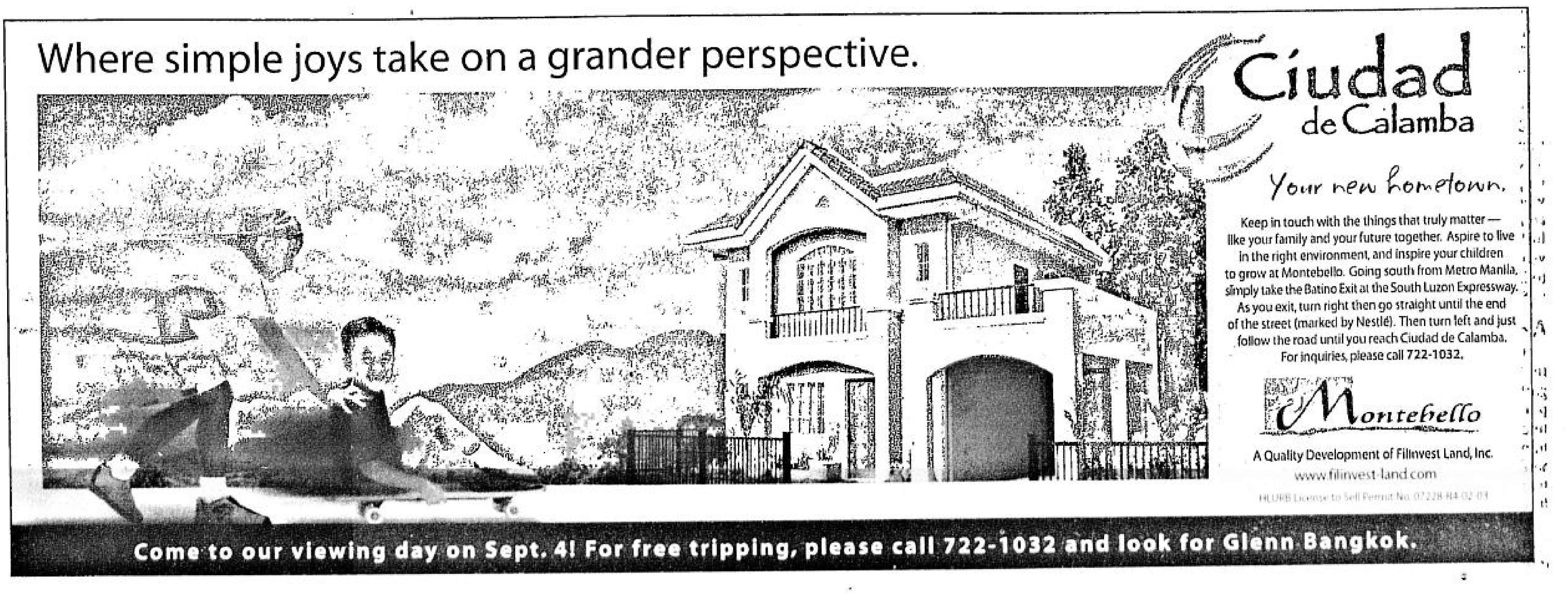

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Talks fail to free hundreds of hostages in Russia school

BESLAN, Russia—Hundreds of mainly young hostages seized at a school close to Chechnya faced a second agonizing day in captivity Thursday after negotiations between the Russian authorities and their captors proved fruitless.

In three hours of phone negotiations, officials said they offered the hostage takers safe passage out of the region and also to exchange the trapped children—some as young as five—with adults. Both offers were turned down.

Russian snipers and tanks surrounded the building in the republic of North Ossetia while anxious relatives gathered nearby, many receiving help from psychiatric counselors and others crying over the lists of the children trapped inside.

Officials said the hostage-takers were still refusing to accept medicines and water for the hostages, some of whom suffer from diabetes. "The situation is quite critical," said Vyacheslav Karpinov, a doctor at the Beslan hospital.

Amid an atmosphere of national crisis, President Vladimir Putin, who has so far maintained a conspicuous silence over the drama, called off a visit to Turkey to confront the fourth act of terror here within a week.

There was conflicting information about the hostage-takers' demands, with some initial reports saying they sought the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya.

Hundreds of relations of the children, teachers and parents taken hostage spent a sleepless night waiting for news in a public building just 150 meters away from the scene of the drama.

"If there were just adults inside then everyone would already be dead. But these are children and I hope that hope will not abandon them," said Georgy whose three nephews and a niece are trapped in the school.

While officials have not linked the hostage-takers to Chechen rebels, the event brought back nightmarish memories of the hostage-taking at a Moscow theater by the separatists in 2002, during which 130 spectators died after police used a poison gas when they stormed the building.

Messages of support poured in to Moscow, with US President George W. Bush saying that "we stand with the Russian people" and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan saying he was appalled by the attack.

On Russia's request, the UN Security Council condemned "the heinous act" in a unanimous vote late Wednesday in New York.

In a further sign of the violence in Chechnya itself, nine Russian servicemen were killed in roadside explosions in the republic, where rebels have been waging a decade of struggle against the authorities in Moscow.

At least 17 masked and heavily armed people burst into the courtyard of the school in the town of Beslan where students in their parade outfits and flowers and bells in hand were lining up for the traditionally festive first day in school on Wednesday.

Nine adults, including one hostage-taker, were killed and four injured as a result of the attack, news agencies reported, quoting law enforcement officials.

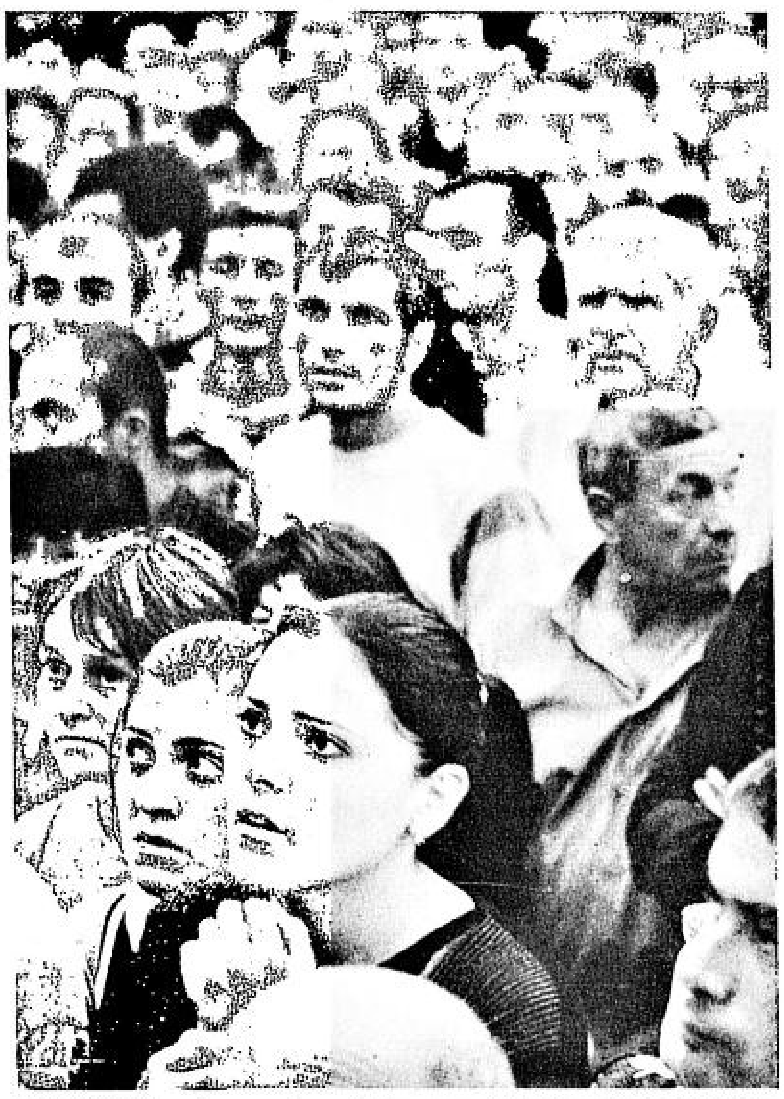
The father of a young girl was killed as he tried to run after and rescue his child. Other desperate parents were restrained by crack troops as they tried to do the same amid the gun battles.

The hostage-takers, who reportedly included two women wearing suicide belts, herded the children and adults into a gym in the school.

The New York Times reported it spoke to a rebel inside the school who said he represented the Second Group of Salakhin Riadus Shakhidi, a rebel contingent believed to be headed by Chechnya's most notorious rebel commander, Shamil Basayev.

All of the Russian papers were full of harrowing pictures of the incident.

The respected Izvestia daily changed its flag to all black over the stark headline, in boldface: "They have taken hundreds of our children." *AFP*



ANXIOUS Ossetian people wait for news as they keep vigil outside the school where a group of gunmen, wearing belts laden with explosives, are holding hostage some 240 people in the northern Ossetian village of Beslan, some 30 km outside Vladikavkaz, Sept. 1. AFP

Bin Laden's wealth not funding terror attacks, probes reveal

WASHINGTON—Recent investigations into al-Qaida, including by the Sept. 11 commission, have substantially altered the commonly held view that Osama bin Laden's inheritance and massive fortune are being used to finance his international terror operations.

While Bin Laden isn't poor, he's not worth the $300 million once believed. Nor is he thought to be directly financing his terror group with his personal wealth or a network of businesses in Sudan, where he operated from 1991 to 1996.

"There has been a revision of collective thinking," said Kenneth Katzman, a Congressional Research Service expert who has studied terror groups. "The new thinking is that Bin Laden's fortune didn't really enter into al-Qaida that much, or wasn't the driving force in al-Qaida."

The report from the Sept. 11 commission concluded that al-Qaida has many financing avenues and could easily find new sources, particularly given the attack's price tag of just $400,000 to $500,000 over two years.

While the report said the government has been unable to determine the source of the attack's financing, the commission said it appears al-Qaida's financial support doesn't come from bin Laden personally.

"The CIA now estimates that it costs al-Qaida about $30 million per year to sustain its activities before 9/11 and that this money was raised almost entirely through donations," the report said.

The belief that Bin Laden was worth such staggering sums gathered steam shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks when Katzman released a report—drawing on a 1996 state department fact sheet, he said recently—indicating that al-Qaida was tapping Bin Laden's $300 million personal fortune, along with other sources.

By February 2002, Katzman had updated the estimate, indicating that Bin Laden may be worth anywhere from $50 million to $300 million, but that the group had apparently become self-sustaining. The change got little notice. *AP*

ISRAELI mourners weep over the body of Karine Malka, 23, during her funeral in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba, Sept. 1. Malka was one of 16 Israelis killed in a double suicide bombing carried out by Palestinian militants in Beersheba Tuesday. AP

Israel vows global hunt for Hamas leaders after Beersheba bombings

BEERSHEBA, Israel—Israel vowed a global pursuit of Hamas leaders and to forge ahead with its West Bank barrier Wednesday as funerals were held for victims of the deadliest Palestinian attack in nearly a year.

As soldiers demolished the family home of one of the two Hamas bombers, a senior government source said its battle against the Islamist group would not be constrained by geographical borders.

The source said Tuesday's bombings, which left 16 people and the two bombers dead in the southern desert city of Beersheba, bore the fingerprints of Hamas' Damascus-based leaders.

"There will be a continuation of our targeted operations against the heads of Hamas," the source said on condition of anonymity.

"There will be no geographical barrier in pursuing the terrorists and their leadership. Any place they are, there will be no immunity.

"It's Damascus that's calling the shots; the orders are coming from there."

Later, Israeli state radio also quoted Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz as pointing the finger at Damascus.

The attacks in Beersheba were the deadliest since a suicide bombing in the port city of Haifa last October, which left 21 people and the female bomber dead.

Israel responded to that attack, carried out by the smaller Islamic Jihad organization, with an air strike on an alleged Palestinian militant training camp deep inside Syria.

Hamas has said the Beersheba bombings, carried out by two members from the southern West Bank city of Hebron, were in response to the assassination of two of its leaders earlier this year.

Since the death of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdelaziz Rantissi, both killed in Israeli air strikes in Gaza, Damascus-based politburo chief Khaled Meshaal has emerged as the undisputed leader.

Meshaal was the target of an failed assassination bid by Israeli agents in Jordan in 1997.

Addressing MPs, army chief of staff General Moshe Yaalon, pointed the finger of blame at the Palestinian Authority and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah as well as Damascus, vowing to "take care of those who support terror."

"That is those in the Palestinian Authority, the Hezbollah organization in Lebanon, in the terrorist command in Damascus, which operate with Syrian approval, and those who provide funding and weapons to terrorist organizations." *AFP*

Migrating ducks linked to bird flu in South Korea

SEOUL—A nine-month probe has linked migrating ducks to the deadly bird flu outbreak in South Korea earlier this year, researchers said Thursday.

The experts of the National Veterinary Quarantine Service said ducks and other migratory birds were the most likely source of the outbreak of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza among poultry in South Korea.

"By comparing with other likely sources such as imported poultry meat and travelers, we have identified migrating birds, mostly ducks, as the most likely source for bringing the virus to this country," said Wi Sung-Hwan, a senior researcher at the state agency.

The study showed the highly pathogenic virus first invaded ducks in the central city of Cheonan around last October. Unnoticed, the virus then spread to duck and chicken farms across the country, forcing quarantine authorities to cull five millions of ducks and chicken to contain the virus.

"You may be easily induced to suspect chickens as the source of the disease as chickens show symptoms swiftly, mostly within a period of between three and seven days after they attracted the virus," Wi said.

"But ducks have a strong resistance to the flu. Even after being infected with the virus, they just live on without showing any symptoms and their farmers can hardly notice the problem," he said.

The flu virus was first detected in the central province of North Chungcheong in December at a farm raising chicken and spread to the south-east and southeast of the country.

Quarantine authorities have analyzed all 19 poultry farms which were hit by the flu and confirmed that it was ducks that were first infected, he said.

The H5N1 strain is known to pass from infected poultry to humans.

But there have been no reports of human infections in South Korea.

The bird flu claimed 19 lives in Vietnam and eight others in Thailand this year alone.

China, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia have also been hit by new outbreaks of bird flu over the past couple of months but only Vietnam has reported human infections. The last death in Thailand occurred on March 12. *AFP*

Cheney says Kerry unfit for White House

NEW YORK—US Vice President Dick Cheney led a blazing Republican attack on John Kerry on Wednesday, belittling the Democrat as weak, confused and unfit to replace George W. Bush in the White House.

In a sweeping speech playing on American fears of terrorism, Cheney said the United States was caught up in a worldwide war that it had to win, and one that Kerry did not have the mettle to fight.

He lambasted the Massachusetts senator for criticizing Bush's decision to go to war in Iraq without broad international support, and hammered away at Kerry as too fickle to stand up to critics at home and enemies abroad.

"His back-and-forth reflects a habit of indecision and sends a message of confusion," said the vice president, who was interrupted by frequent applause on the third night of the Republican national convention.

"Senator Kerry denounces American action when other countries don't approve, as if the whole object of our foreign policy were to please a few persistent critics," he said.

With the Nov. 2 vote less than nine weeks away and polls showing the two rivals neck-and-neck, Cheney said the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks had pushed the nation toward a "defining moment" that Kerry did not quite understand.

"Moments come along in history when leaders must make fundamental decisions about how to confront a long-term challenge abroad and how best to keep the American people secure," he said.

"He talks about leading a more sensitive war on terror, as though al-Qaida will be impressed with our softer side," said Cheney—one of the chief architects of Bush's strike-first policy that underpinned the Iraq war.

The tough talk signaled the gloves were off for the final phase of the campaign, with Bush showing new gains in the polls despite a struggling economy at home and ongoing violence in Iraq.

The Republicans have relied heavily on Sept. 11 in making their case for Bush's re-election, after opting to hold the convention in New York, just a few miles from where that day's attacks demolished the World Trade Center towers.

Bush arrived in New York late Wednesday to put the finishing touches on his own speech Thursday night, after which he will get back on the campaign trail.

"I'm going to lay out a vision tomorrow night for a safer world and a more hopeful America," he said earlier at a rally in Columbus, Ohio, one of several crucial battleground state on which the election could hinge.

On the domestic front, the White House promised weeks ago Bush would lay out details of his agenda for a second term, but that pledge has gone unfulfilled as he and the party have instead focussed on discrediting Kerry.

Convention speakers have repeatedly ridiculed Kerry, rated by a Washington magazine as the most liberal US senator, and on Wednesday the party pulled out an unusual weapon—one of Kerry's Democratic colleagues. *AFP*

SECURITY men remove a protestor from the crowd during US Vice President Dick Cheney's speech on Night Three of the Republican National Convention Sept. 1 at the Madison Square Garden in New York City. AFP

Grief, protests in Nepal over hostage slays in Iraq

KATMANDU—Nepal observed a day of mourning Thursday for 12 workers murdered in Iraq as protests spread to the west of the Hindu kingdom following two deaths during riots in the capital.

Katmandu, which suffered tens of thousands of dollars in damage Wednesday when furious crowds torched offices of Arab airlines and businesses, was quiet Thursday with police given shoot-on-sight orders against rioters.

The city's main mosque, the Jama Masjid, was still smoldering as Muslims collected pieces of the Koran burned when protestors stormed the shrine and gutted it.

But protests spread to the western Nepalese city of Palpa, where police said they opened 12 rounds of blank fire to disperse a crowd of 3,000 people chanting slogans against Iraqi insurgents.

"At least two demonstrators were injured when police used a baton-charge to break up the crowd," a witness said. Police said they feared the protesters would vent their fury by attacking businesses.

Shops and schools were shut nationwide for the official mourning as the Himalayan kingdom's twin-triangle sun-and-moon flag was flown at half mast.

Nepal, which is not part of the US-led coalition in Iraq, is one of the world's poorest countries, fueling an exodus of tens of thousands of young people to low-level jobs abroad.

The 12 Nepalese, who were kidnapped 10 days before their executions were announced, had flown to Jordan in hopes of being cooks and cleaners.

The riots erupted hours after an Islamist website published grisly footage of a Nepalese man being beheaded and 11 others being shot in the biggest massacre of hostages in post-war Iraq.

Most airlines canceled flights to Katmandu after the curfew was imposed Wednesday. The government lifted the curfew for three and a half hours Thursday to allow the city's 1.5 million people to buy food and other essential goods.

"We are likely to extend the curfew to the weekend to avoid any clashes on Friday as it is the Muslims' day of prayer," a home ministry official said.

Two people were killed in Katmandu Wednesday, including a man who was shot dead by police as a crowd tried to storm the Egyptian Embassy, which represents Iraqi interests in Nepal.

The other man was shot dead as a surging crowd chanted slogans against Islamic extremists in Ratna Park, a sensitive area due to its proximity to King Gyanendra's Narayanhity Palace.

The king, who is revered as a god by Nepalese traditionalists, appealed late Wednesday for calm.

"Let there be brotherly relations among different religions and cultures. We hope that civil society and political leaders will help maintain peace and security," said a statement in his name read over state radio.

All was quiet in the city with the largest Muslim community, Nepalgunj on the southwestern border with India. Some 300 Muslims staged a procession through the city late Wednesday to denounce the atrocity in Iraq, police said. *AFP*

Fate of journalist-hostages hangs

PARIS—French envoys were to hold crisis talks in Iraq and Jordan on Thursday in a desperate bid to free two journalists seized by militants seeking to overturn France's law banning Islamic head scarves in public schools.

A group of French Muslims was to arrive in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad to try to pursue negotiations with the shadowy militant group holding the journalists. Representatives of the French Council for the Muslim Faith, which serves as a link to President Jacques Chirac's government, left Paris on Wednesday in hopes of retrieving the journalists.

"I am against the presence of the Americans in Iraq, it is an occupying Army, but if an American journalist was captured, my message would be the same," said Abdallah Zekri, a member of the French Muslim council. "The role of journalists is democracy. They inform us, they inform the entire world. Journalism is a profession that must be respected."

The whereabouts of veteran Middle East correspondents Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot remained unknown. A first deadline issued by militants for France to overturn its head scarf law passed Monday night without incident. A second deadline was issued Tuesday and extended until late Wednesday.

Chesnot, 37, of Radio France International, and Malbrunot, 41, reporting for the daily Le Figaro, were last heard from on Aug. 19 as they set off for the southern city of Najaf. Their Syrian chauffeur also vanished.

Jean de Belot, Figaro's managing editor, told Europe-1 radio on Thursday that French authorities believe the two hostages were still alive, according to information obtained from "indirect contact" with the kidnappers. *AP*

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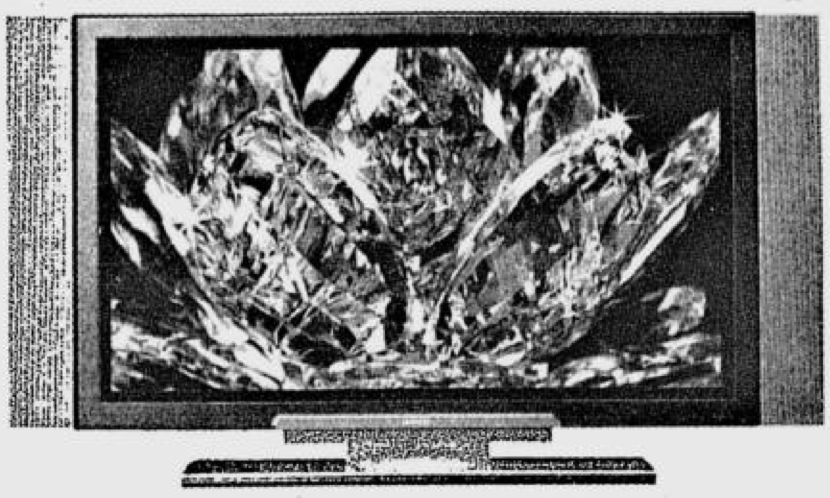

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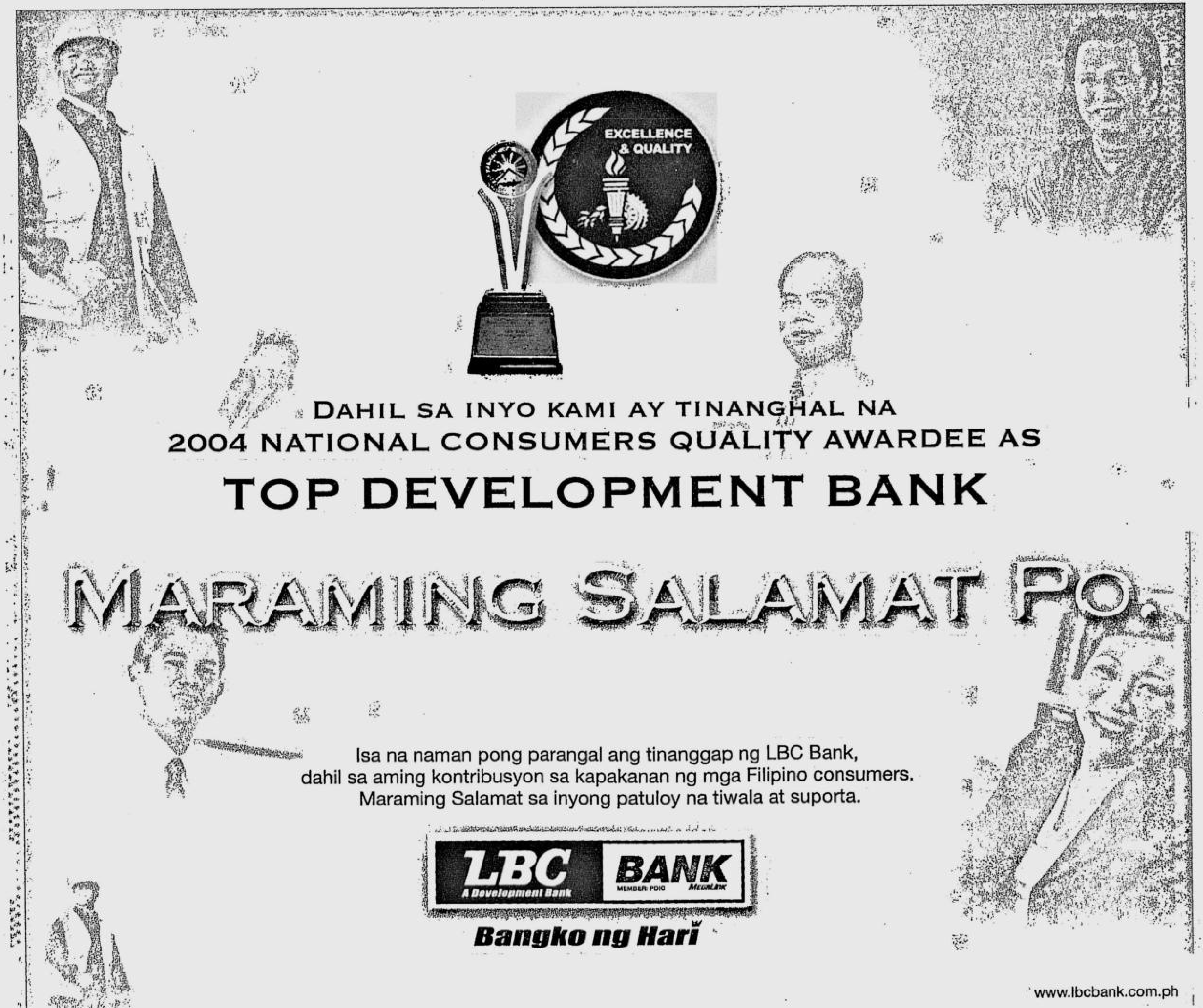

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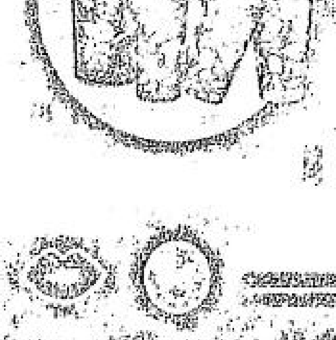

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US to seek UN sanctions on Iran over nuke program

WASHINGTON—Secretary of State Colin Powell says the United States plans to press for a range of possible UN Security Council sanctions against Iran in response to what he describes as a concerted effort by that country to develop nuclear weapons.

Powell told reporters Wednesday night the United States will urge the United Nations' nuclear watchdog group on Sept. 13 in Vienna to refer the Iranian case to the UN Security Council for action.

"We're looking at the range of possible actions of a political, economic, diplomatic nature," Powell said.

He commented while flying home from Panama after attending the inauguration of Panamanian President Martin Torrijos.

In Vienna, the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency said earlier Wednesday that Iran plans to process tons of raw uranium and restart its centrifuges—two activities that could be used to make nuclear warheads.

US diplomats at the meeting said the revelations provided further evidence that Iran's activities pose "a threat to international peace and security."

"Unless there are assurances that the international community can count on, I think it's appropriate that it (the Iran issue) be referred to the Security Council," Powell said.

He said it remains to be seen whether there is a consensus to do that now.

Diplomats said the IAEA report on Iran with the new disclosures was based on information provided by Iran's government. Iran insists its nuclear program is devoted to the peaceful generation of electricity.

Earlier Wednesday, Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton, the administration's point man on nuclear proliferation threats, said, "We view with great concern" revelations in the IAEA report that Iran is about to convert 37 tons of yellow cake uranium into uranium hexafluoride gas.

Uranium hexafluoride is spun in centrifuges to produce enriched uranium, which in turn can be used to generate power or make nuclear warheads, depending on the degree of enrichment.

The United States will continue to urge other members of the UN agency's board of governors "to join with us in this effort to deal with the Iranian threat to international peace and security," Bolton said.

Another senior Bush administration official, in an interview in which his identity was withheld, said Iran was positioning itself to produce 100 kg of enriched uranium, enough for four nuclear weapons.

UN inspectors have been looking for evidence that Iran has a secret nuclear weapons program. Such a finding could be critical to the Bush administration's effort to gain support from the other 34 members of the agency to seek UN Security Council action.

Tom Casey, a state department spokesperson, said the report being circulated by the IAEA "continues to document the fact that through the past 18 years Iran has amassed a record of deception and denial about its nuclear activities."

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry's campaign criticized the Bush administration for going to war against Iraq on what it called discredited grounds instead of acting sooner to marshal US allies to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. *AP*

Thai study: Drinking urine works wonders

BANGKOK—Drinking urine can eliminate sinus trouble, turn grey hair black and even cure cancer, a Thai academic said Thursday, citing a study of local Buddhists who engage in the unorthodox practice.

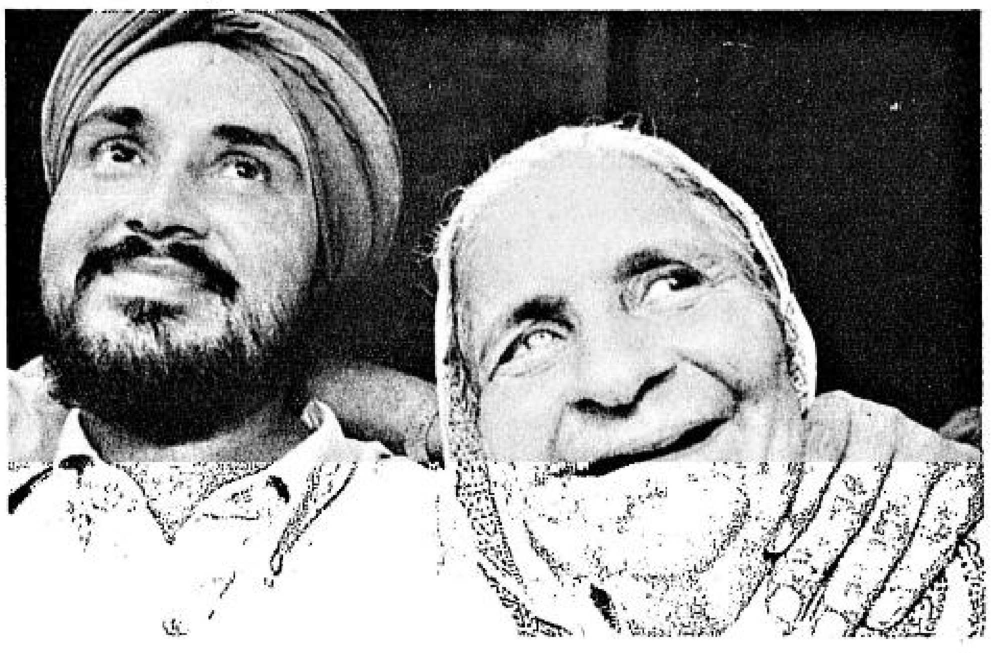
Ratree Cheepudomwit, of the Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine Development Department, said hundreds of urine drinkers attested that consuming a daily cup worked wonders for their overall health and helped slow the aging process.

She said that in June she queried 250 members of Santi Asoke, a strict indigenous Buddhist movement believed to have thousands of followers, and 204 respondents said they had learned from ancient Buddhist manuscripts that drinking one's urine improved health.

"Of the respondents, 87 percent confirmed that it had head-to-toe benefits for them, including for example reduction of dandruff, grey hair, sinus problems and cancer," Ratree said.

The medical elixir was not easy on everyone's system, as about one in 10 urine drinkers suffered diarrhea afterwards, but the practice should not be viewed with disgust, she said.

"Other groups of people who drank urine were Buddhist monks who practiced in accordance to scriptures which are more than 2,500 years old," she said. *AFP*



JASPAL Kaur (right) smiles with her son Harinder Singh after hearing news about the release of her son Sukhdev Singh, one of the seven freed by Iraqi captors. REUTERS

Iraq kidnappers free 7 truck drivers after getting ransom

KUWAIT CITY—The Kuwaiti employers of seven truck drivers freed Wednesday after being held hostage in Iraq said after the group arrived here that they had not ceased operations in Iraq and had paid more than half a million dollars as ransom to the kidnappers.

"We did not cease our operations in Iraq" as demanded by the kidnappers, Kuwait Gulf and Link (KGL) president Saeed Ismail al-Dashti told reporters after receiving the seven drivers at Kuwait airport.

"At present, the company transports to certain destinations inside Iraq, under heavy security protection, and Iraqi companies undertake internal distribution," he said.

KGL had announced Aug. 27 it had decided to stop working in Iraq in response to the kidnappers' demands.

Dashti said the company last paid half a million dollars to the abductors to secure the hostages' release, but other payments had been made before.

He declined to disclose the amounts of the previous payments.

Islamist militants released the three Indians, three Kenyans and Egyptian earlier Wednesday after holding them hostage for six weeks.

The seven drivers arrived aboard a chartered small passenger plane after a two-hour journey. They were welcomed by top officials and their countries' respective ambassadors.

They appeared in good health but looked exhausted. The three Indians and the Egyptian were immediately whisked out by embassy officials to awaiting cars without speaking to reporters.

One of the Kenyan drivers, Faiz Khamees, said the kidnappers "treated them well" except on the first day when they were mistreated. He declined to elaborate.

"After they caught us, they blindfolded us. They took us to a house and kept us blindfolded for most of the time in a single room," said Khamees, who and the other two Kenyans were helped by embassy officials to speak to their families back home. *AFP*

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Honor thy enemy

EDITORIAL

THE ABSENCE of President Macapagal-Arroyo from this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremonies shows the challenges that the awards foundation and Manila face in organizing and hosting Asia's most prestigious prize-giving ritual. Historically, it is the President of the Republic who presides over the awards ceremonies. But this year, Ms Macapagal was noticeably absent. On the eve of her state visit to China, she did not go to the ceremonies apparently so as not to further provoke Beijing, which barred the Chinese winner for public service, Dr. Jiang Yanyong, from leaving China for Manila to receive the award.

What was Jiang's sin? He was the retired military physician who, despite Beijing's news blackout and media manipulation, revealed to the world the epidemic of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) sweeping China. On April 3, 2003, China's health minister grossly understated the SARS figures in a report. Jiang, who had gotten first-hand information about the epidemic's deadly spread from Guangdong province to Hong Kong, then issued a letter to the press, challenging the report and giving his own version of the situation. Only then did Beijing, which had previously ordered hospital officials not to speak about the epidemic lest it disturb important national meetings in the capital, fire the health minister and order a public health campaign. The outbreak was stemmed two months later.

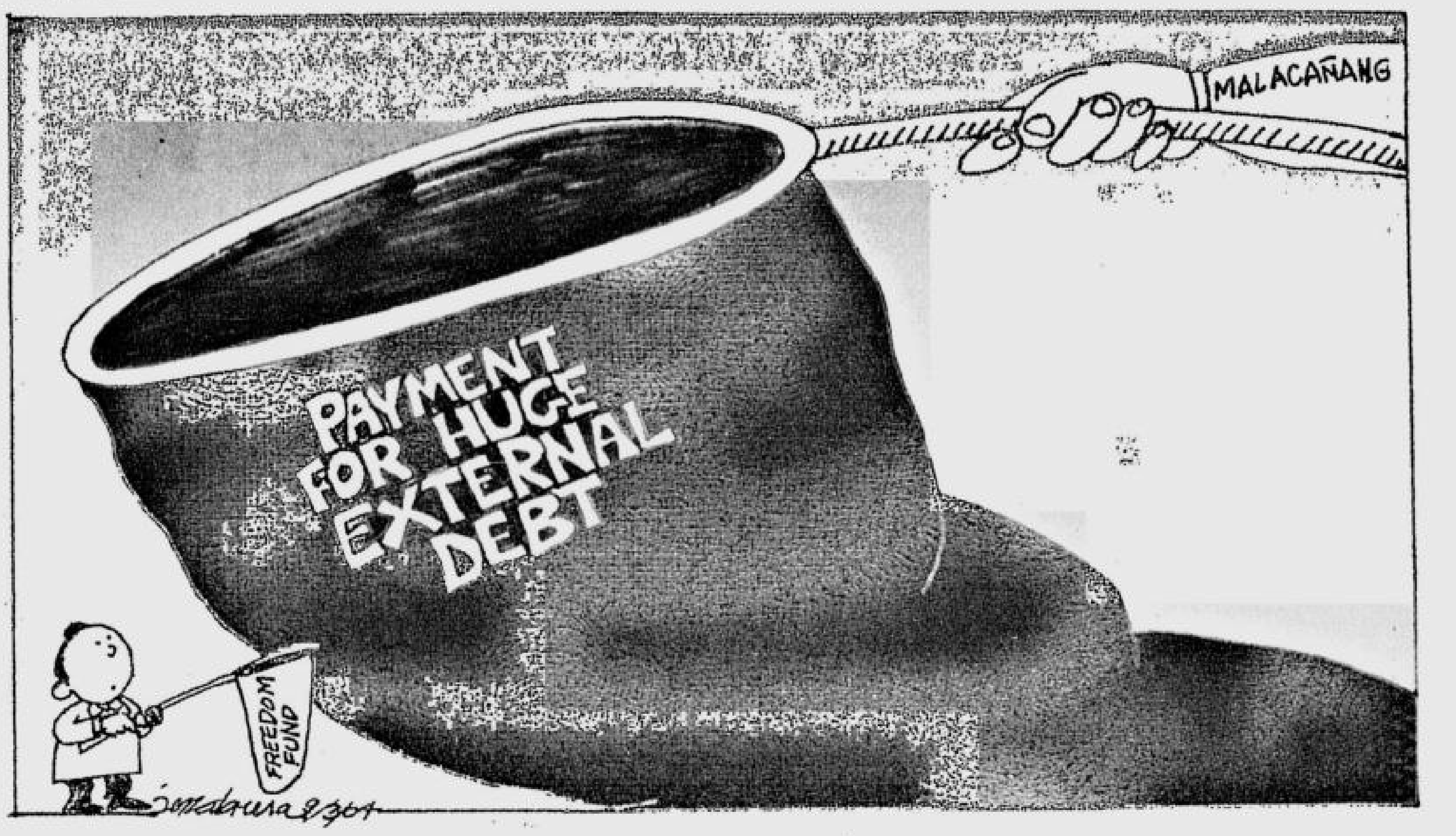
Jiang is not a maverick or a dissident. He's in fact a loyal member of the Communist Party who, like many intellectuals and professionals, suffered persecution during the Hundred Flowers campaign, the Cultural Revolution, and other purges that are usually carried out by utopian socialist lunatics at the cost of so much lives and reputations. Since Jiang has kept faith with communism and its reputed ability to correct its mistakes and renew itself, he represents perhaps the best hope of communism. But of course, the fact that he continues to be persecuted despite saving China from SARS—and from its harebrained party bosses—should provide caution against hoping too much in communist hope.

Of course, the Chinese authorities may consider the award as a capitalist agitprop to discredit communism since, they may allege, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation is American-endowed and, therefore, "CIA-funded." But the award really recognizes portraits of courage amid so much adversity and struggles across the world, across races, ideologies and regimes.

By speaking out on the real SARS situation in China, Jiang was like Dr. Thomas Stockmann in Henrik Ibsen's "Enemy of the People," the public-minded doctor in a small town in Norway famous for its public baths who discovers that the water is contaminated and has probably been the cause of some illness among the tourists who are the town's economic lifeblood. When he presents his findings to the town leaders, he runs into the establishment that refuses to close down the baths and contain the epidemic. He is publicly labeled an enemy of the people.

Come to think of it, the other Magsaysay winners are enemies of the people for taking on thankless advocacies that rile the establishment. Our very own Haydee Yorac (honoree for government service) has become the enemy of corrupters for reforming the Presidential Commission on Good Government that is running after the Marcoses, their close associates and other plunderers. By teaching farmers self-reliance, Prayong Ronnarong of Thailand (community leadership) is the enemy of Thai politicians and businessmen who seek to hold the peasants in their thrall. By promoting literacy and love of the great books of humanity, Abdullah Aby Sayeed of Bangladesh (journalism, literature and creative communication arts) is the enemy of illiteracy and poverty. By fostering dialogue, Laxminarayan Ramdas of India and Ibn Abdur Rehman of Pakistan (peace and international understanding) is the enemy of jingoists and warmongers who seek to exploit age-old animosities and plunge India and Pakistan into nuclear madness. And by working for the displaced lumad of Mindanao and building peace zones in a land of conflict, Benjamin Abadiano (emergent leadership) is the enemy of those seeking to destroy the peace and put the indigenous people in the crossfire of hate and death.

In the final analysis, the Magsaysay awardees are enemies of despair. They represent the legacy of President Ramon Magsaysay: "greatness of spirit in selfless service to the people."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Neal H. Cruz

REALIZING that the anger of taxpayers is about to explode like a volcano, various groups who should be paying more in taxes but don't are scrambling all over each other in suggesting ways for the government to get more money to be able to pay its deficit. The suggestions are varied but have one thing in common: all of them carefully avoided suggesting that they forego their privileges and perks.

Speaker Jose de Venecia proposed that the rich donate P1 million each and their wives their jewels to the government. "*Ano kayo, sinusuwerte?*" snorted a businessman. "Donate, what for? So they can steal it?"

Really ridiculous. Why doesn't the Speaker simply give up his discretionary fund? That's P1 billion saved right there.

A couple of very rich businessmen have readily expressed willingness to donate P1 million each to the government. That's because that is cheaper for them than to pay the correct taxes. They hope that by doing that, they will prevent Congress from removing the 30 percent cap on income tax rates. The original cap was 70 percent, but because of the lobbying of the mega-rich, Congress lowered it to 30 percent. Even if a person is earning billions every year, he pays only a maximum 30 percent, the same as the members of the middle class.

Besides, those P1 million donations are tax deductible anyway. So the rich don't really give up anything.

My own suggestion is for the rich to hold on to their donations but for Congress to restore the maximum income tax rate to the original 70 percent.

* * *

While most of the congressmen cling to their pork barrel, all of them agreed to cut their pork by 38 percent. Big deal! They don't deserve even a peso of the pork. All of it should be abolished. It not only wastes taxpayers money, it is the biggest form of corruption.

"*Bawasan ang* pork barrel *o tuluyan nang tanggalin?*" the INQUIRER asks its readers to vote in its text poll. I am sure the people will vote overwhelmingly to totally abolish the pork. (Anyway, the pork is infected with lightfinger-and-mouth disease.) A similar television poll also showed the same sentiment of the people.

A small group of congressmen proposed giving up one month's salary instead of reducing their pork. Big deal again! A congressman's monthly salary is only P35,000 but his allowances are many times that and his pork barrel is P65 million! A committee chair's allowance alone is from P100,000 to P200,000 each, although none of them will admit it. That is why the legislators are fighting over the committee chairmanships.

In spite of the huge incomes that legislators rake in, they pay only peanuts in income taxes. (Some journalists pay more than them.) While legislators and Cabinet members list huge assets in their statements of assets and liabilities, competing with one another as to who is the richest, they pay very little in income taxes. So it would be very enlightening to publish beside their statements of assets and liabilities the income tax returns of the members of Congress and the Cabinet.

* * *

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has urged the priests to donate cash to the government. Why don't the schools run by religious organizations just pay taxes instead? Although these schools like Ateneo and La Salle are earning billions of pesos, they don't pay a single peso in income taxes. They hide behind the "separation of Church and State" provision of the Constitution. But the Constitution never said they are tax exempt.

What the Constitution means by "separation of Church and State" is that the Church, because of the meddling of the friars in the affairs of the government during the Spanish regime, should not interfere with the State and vice versa, not any tax exemption. But our experience shows that members of the clergy keep interfering anyway, so that gives the State justification to pay the Church back in kind by taxing it.

Every week, religious organizations like El Shaddai and Jesus is Lord collect millions of pesos from their gullible followers whom they have made to believe that the path to Heaven is littered with donations to their high priests. All those millions are tax-free. Where is the principle that those who have more money should pay more taxes?

Besides, if the Church should be given any tax exemption, it should be for the operation of the churches themselves. Universities are business enterprises and should be treated as such. Many of the secular priests, especially those in the rural areas, survive on the contributions of their parishioners. But the foreign-born priests of the religious orders running the universities live like kings but don't pay any taxes at all.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered austerity measures for the government, such as no overtime, no seminars, no purchase of new vehicles, etc, etc. These are all for show and affect mostly the rank and file, not the high-salaried and high-allowanced officials. To show sincerity, why doesn't she give up her P1 billion discretionary allowance? Anyway, Pagcor gives to her social fund millions of pesos every month, which is not included in the budget.

All the Cabinet members have huge intelligence funds that are not audited by the Commission on Audit. There are so many other allowances that, put together, add up to billions of pesos. If the President will just deduct from her proposed budget 20 percent of all allowances across the board, she probably won't have any deficit.

And why is it necessary for members of Congress to agree to give up their pork? If the President will not include any Priority Development Assistance Fund in the budget, there would be no pork and the congressmen cannot do anything about it. They cannot add it. They can only reduce the proposed budget but cannot increase it.

The ordeal known as the bar exams

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

WHEN I meet with law professors in universities abroad, there are things uniquely Filipino that they find so fascinating. First is that Filipino lawyers are addressed as "attorney" (spelled "Atty."), whereas in their countries lawyers use plain Mr. or Ms. Second is that the mass of Filipino law professors actively engage in law practice, and indeed prefer "Atty." to the elevated title of professor, whereas abroad the most learned jurists pride themselves in being academics. Third is that for the Filipino nation, the ultimate test of legal genius is the bar examination.

Foreign jurists listen curiously when I tell them that former President Ferdinand Marcos holds one of the all-time highest bar exam grades; that his predecessor in Malacañang, Diosdado Macapagal of UST, was a "bar topnotcher" like him; that UP's first law class valedictorian Manuel Acuña Roxas went on to top the bar exams and became the first president of our new Republic; that today our nation finds its conscience in the bar topnotcher of 1944, former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga.

In contrast, I recall the levity of a New York tabloid report when John Kennedy Jr. failed his first attempt at the New York bar exams. Its headline: "The Hunk Flunks." His response: "It's no big deal really." (And, indeed, it is in that positive spirit that I recount this otherwise cruel headline that, in Manila, would have been cause enough for suicide or Mafia-style vendetta.)

Two days from now, 5,421 law graduates from all over the Philippines will troop to the De La Salle campus on Taft Avenue to take the bar examinations, of whom only the top 20 percent are expected to become lawyers.

Some candidates have been known to take the exams repeatedly, the record being the candidate who has taken it 25 times. When I served as bar examiner in Political Law and Public International Law 12 years ago, there was one examinee who wrote a plea on the last page of his bluebook: "Dear Examiner, please pass me. This is my nth attempt to become a lawyer, and all I want is when I die, the title 'Atty.' will be on my tombstone.'"

The obsession with the bar exams is so intense that it has led to organized attempts at cheating, the most recent being the massive leakage last year of almost the entire examination in Commercial Law, which was downloaded from the bar examiner's office computer by a junior lawyer, an FEU law alumnus who no sooner shared it with his fraternity brothers, including those in MLQU. The Supreme Court disbarred him and nullified that exam. The Court has also dealt harshly with the 2001 failure of the bar exam committee chair to disclose that a nephew was taking the exam (which led to sanctions against the chair) and the 1982 premature decoding of the grades of a Supreme Court justice's son (which led to the resignation of all the justices, and the non-renewal of the appointment of the two justices who had been implicated).

That is why the entire bar examination system is anchored on secrecy. The Supreme Court designates one of its own to chair the bar exam committee, who then chooses an examiner for each of the eight subjects of the exam. The examiner drafts the questions and grades the answers. He is asked to adopt an alias known only to the chair, and to tell no one that he is an examiner. His identity is disclosed only after the results are published. The next year, an altogether new chair and committee of examiners take over.

This system has been in place for more than a century, with periodic fine-tuning here and there. But are the bar exams a reliable test of competence in law? Justice Irene Cortes had long lamented that bar exam questions tended toward rote memory and the mechanical application of rules in what American law schools call "short-answer questions." The questions sometimes focus unduly on just a few aspects of a subject, and are not evenly distributed to test the candidate's mastery of that field of law. The level of difficulty fluctuates and so does the strictness in grading, which can be so subjective and inconsistent.

The bench and academia have issued endless admonitions to reform the substance of the exams, but it was only recently that the focus shifted to the true culprit: the sociology of how the bar exams are made and how the answers are weighed. Given that the bar exams are made and marked by the solitary, ad hoc examiner, there is no mechanism for building upon past lessons and experiences, for improving the way test problems are designed and exam booklets are checked—a surefire way to be unscientific.

The Court has now adopted radical reform proposals based on a paper by recently retired Justice Vicente V. Mendoza. In order to improve the quality of the questions, we must overhaul the way the exams are organized. The Court plans within two to five years to do away with this ad hoc system by appointing a tenured Board of Examiners, so that the bar questions are not done by one examiner working in secrecy and isolation, and panels of "readers" who will grade the answers and who will design a "calibration method" to ensure that grading standards are uniformly applied.

These reforms, adopted only on July 15, 2004, will not yet be in place for the bar candidates this Sunday. It falls upon the present chair, Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing, and his team of examiners to pick the fittest and to choose fairly and well. To our gladiators at the Taft Avenue collosseo, remember the call: "Strength and honor. At the signal, unleash hell. What we do in life echoes in eternity."

* * *

Comments to raul.pangalangan@up.edu.ph

Fallacies of quick-fix solutions to 'crisis'

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IN THEIR paper, "The Deepening Crisis: the Real Score on Deficits and the Public Debt," the 11 UP School of Economics academics warn that the country faces economic collapse in two years unless the government takes immediate steps to curb the widening public sector deficit and debt.

The paper was not just a "wake-up call" as some would lightly dismiss it. It was intended to shock the political leadership—notably the executive and the legislature—into action and make the public and the business community aware that the "looming threat represented by an uncontrolled public debt is indeed the biggest economic challenge the country will have to confront immediately."

The economists were impelled to issue the paper after public debate over the deficit had given them "ample reason to doubt" whether the political elite and the public truly understood the message of President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address that the deficit was "our most urgent problem." The UP economists said that "the quality of public debate on the issue stirs grave doubts whether the scale and consequences of 'our most urgent problem' are indeed being fully appreciated."

Their doubts were, indeed, confirmed quickly by the quality of debate that followed the publication of the paper. From the immediate reactions, the paper did not achieve the shock effect that was intended. The UP economists feared that because the issue was "removed from the people's daily experience," the issue was reduced to a banal exercise which produced "clever" solutions which give "false assurance that a crisis can be staved off with no sacrifice or pain, and no radical readjustments in people's way of life."

More than a week after the issuance of the report, the quality of the debate has confirmed their worst fears. The purpose of this comment is to call attention to the fact that the political elite has not realized the urgency of addressing the recommendations put forward by the UP economists to avert an economic crash of the severity experienced by Argentina in 2002, when it defaulted on its $88 billion debt.

Where did the debate go after the publication of the paper? The first area in which it bogged down was the issue of whether we are in the midst of a "fiscal crisis" or a "full-blown economic crisis"—or whether we are not yet there or already there. The debate centered on definitions of "crisis" in which dictionary meanings were cited without in any way clarifying how deep in trouble we are.

The text of the economists' paper conveys the severity of the debt and deficit issue and what the economic and political ramifications are. It does not only trace the roots of the problem but also puts forwards concrete proposals that the government can take to avert an Argentina-type economic disaster. The following definition by the paper captures the essence and the urgency of the problem and does not need further resort to hair-splitting semantics: "While the economy is not yet on the brink at this time, it can probably afford at most three years to avert such a crisis—with possibly a year at most to convince financial markets it is doing something to reverse the situation." This assessment emphasizes immediate action based on a package of recommended actions.

The immediate response from the political elite involves two themes: the first is that the political sector has channeled the issue to a diversionary exercise: declaring austerity in government or cost cutting; the second theme is where the cost cutting should be made—the congressional pork barrel or the executive's discretionary funds. The question here is who takes the pain of cost cutting. The emergence of these issues amounts to dodging the problem and finger-pointing, precisely a situation that the academics said should not happen.

The issues between the executive and the legislative departments boil down to two things: first, whether the President should be granted emergency powers to implement extraordinary measures aimed at curbing the deficit and public debt; second, the urgent need to pass new tax measures to enhance revenue. The second issue has come down to a flea market transaction in which, it is proposed, that members of Congress either give up their pork barrel allocation completely or merely half of it. It has also become a matter of swapping new taxes for pork barrel. In regard to emergency powers, the martial law syndrome has intruded. Some senators, sensitive to martial law memories, have warned that emergency powers are likely to be abused.

The paper says it is important to dispose of "schemes that tend merely to raise unrealistic hopes and distraction from serious solutions."

One such scheme is the idea that "the economy can somehow 'grow' itself out of a crisis-trajectory while keeping inflation and currency depreciation at levels no worse than today's." This solution "is no more than whistling in the dark," the paper says.

The paper shoots down the quick-fix idea that the government should simply "live within its means" by cutting down waste. It notes a proposal to limit the increase in the government budget to no more than 5 percent a year in absolute terms. It points out that the apparent rationality of this idea evaporates once it is realized that inflation hovers at 4 to 5 percent per annum, which means spending would be frozen in real terms.

The paper blasts the "fallacy" dearly held by members of Congress that "no new taxes are needed" and "all that is required is sound enforcement and tax administration" and if you "get rid of corruption, you get rid of the deficit problem."

Tale of two gatherings

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LONDON—While over 600 participants from 109 countries are meeting here for the Global Roundtable marking the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), another conference is taking place across the Atlantic whose impact on its target audience may well determine the results of strategies being planned and mapped out here.

The other gathering is the Republican Convention in New York. While the possibility of George W. Bush's reelection as US president looms large in the consciousness of many participants and speakers at the Roundtable, it's doubtful the Republican partisans cheering on "Dubya," or "Dubya" and his friends, have even fleetingly thought of us in turn.

Do the delegates waving pennants saying "Four More Years," or American viewers mesmerized by Arnold Schwarzenneger's "you are Republican" mantra given thought to what a second Bush administration could mean to the lives and health of women and children around the world? Do they even think of the rest of the world—beyond Iraq?

Maybe they should. For from the minute George W. stepped into the White House, the impressive strides in achieving global goals for universal sexual and reproductive health and rights that many countries had been making since the Cairo conference in 1994 were suddenly slowed, if not halted completely.

Almost immediately, the new Bush administration reinstituted the so-called "Global Gag Rule," previously revoked by the Clinton White House, that forbade American aid money to be accessed by NGOs that provide or support abortion services or even advocate the legalization of abortion where it is illegal. Money previously earmarked for reproductive health services, including family planning, were either cut back or diverted, usually to "faith-based" "abstinence only" programs. The cutbacks included most prominently the withholding of the annual $34-million grant to the UN Population Fund on "false, trumped-up charges" that the agency was using part of this money to fund forced abortions in China. (Even Bush's special envoy sent to China to investigate these allegations could find no proof of this, as with the WMDs in Iraq.)

* * *

"CERTAINLY, the potential of expanding the cutbacks and of maintaining a policy hostile to women is there," in the event of a Bush reelection, Frances Kissling of Catholics for a Free Choice and one of the organizers of the Roundtable acknowledged.

Steve Sinding, director general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, one of the organizers of this global NGO meet, admitted that IPPF lost approximately 20 percent of its funding as a consequence of the "Global Gag Rule." The IPPF is composed of family planning associations and clinics around the world, including the Philippines.

"Some of our affiliates were forced to close down clinics," Sinding said, noting that the resulting reduction in services led to "thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of unintended pregnancies, many of which resulted in unsafe abortions." Indeed, said Sinding, the biggest impact of the loss of funding to service providers worldwide has been "a dramatic increase in the number of abortions."

* * *

BUT turning off the source of funding was not the only means by which the Bush administration sought to turn back the progress made since Cairo.

From the very first regional reviews of how governments have implemented the ICPD Program of Action, the United States has fielded delegations that aggressively pursued their agenda of getting the rest of the world to "repudiate" key portions of the Cairo document. Their brash negotiating tactics were accompanied by threats of aid funding cutbacks and even of "reporting" recalcitrant delegations to their local American ambassador.

The good news is that in each and every regional assessment meeting, the United States ended up isolated as the majority of the world's governments, some of which had even abstained from signing the final Cairo agreement, stood firmly by the consensus reached in 1994 and refused to turn back the hands of time.

Still, so powerful and influential is the United States and its allies, like the Vatican, that they have prevented the United Nations from holding a formal global review of the past 10 years since the ICPD. Instead, there will only be a ceremonial observance of the ICPD 10th anniversary during the UN General Session a few months hence. This for fear that by convening an international conference, the UN would be opening the doors to a "Trojan horse" delegation insisting on revisiting and repudiating the Cairo consensus.

* * *

AND so, despite the fact that the cheering audiences in Madison Square Garden largely ignored the events in London, this Roundtable has become the only truly global event celebrating and assessing the past decade since the ICPD.

"The world has changed dramatically since 1994," Kissling said in a press conference a day before the Roundtable's opening. Among the changes that have taken place: the rise of conservatism and the growing power of conservative and fundamentalist forces, continued armed conflicts and wars, the further spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, new communication technologies that have speeded up the exchange of information, and new reproductive health technologies, including the bio-tech revolution.

Most everybody here agrees that the paradigm shift signaled by the Cairo Conference is still very valid and responsive to the sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of people across the globe. The challenge that faces the men, women and youth gathered here is how to adapt the gains made at Cairo to present realities, or as Lieve Fransen of the European Commission said at the opening plenary, "How to translate the agenda into new forms."

A glimpse of mid-19th century economic life

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN curious people ask why I went into history as a profession, I usually reply that I am bad with numbers. Apparently I use the side of the brain that has something to do with texts and pictures. In college, I chose a course that required the fewest math and science subjects. Perhaps this attitude was a reflection of my aptitude, my preferences, or the way I was taught in grade school and high school, though we will never know.

But then even as a historian, one cannot escape math and numbers because current bad news is filled with terms like "fiscal crisis," "budget deficit," "GDP," "GNP" and many others that make me wish I paid more attention to the college economics course that included the compulsory items on land reform and taxation. Maybe it is the present economic problem that prodded me to read the stale economic data gathered by Pierre Joseph Lannoy, the Belgian consul in Manila from 1837-1848, who published "Les isles Philippines de leur situation ancienne et actualle" (The Philippine Islands: Of their condition in ancient times and the present) in Brussels in 1849.

While our relations with Belgium do not make news these days, there is enough in our history to make us take a second look. Some Filipinos studied in Belgium in the late 19th century, including some famous names in the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American War like Jose Alejandrino and Edilberto Evangelista. "El Filibusterismo" was published in Ghent when Jose Rizal lived in Belgium. Going much further, when Rosario Manalo was Philippine ambassador to Benelux (the countries of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg), she wanted me to do research on the Belgian moneylenders who financed Magellan's expedition to the Philippines in 1521. Then, of course, there is the little-known story of Leopold King of Belgium who at one point contemplated acquiring the Philippines as a colony, but ended up with the Belgian Congo instead. When a Filipino historian takes the trouble to do some primary source research in the libraries and archives in Brussels, he will surely find more about Philippine-Belgian relations.

To serve as a guide for travelers and investors from Europe, Lannoy listed down all the products and industries available in the Philippines as well as information on customs, taxation and the political situation. He also listed some of the articles imported by the Philippines from Belgium as follows:

"White and unbleached cotton; Spun cotton; Printed cotton and kerchiefs, cloth with large and small checks, spring fabrics, cotton fabrics; Linen cloth in small quantities; Light fabrics; woolen clothes such as prunellas, etc.; Carriage trimmings; Waxed cloth; Tanned leather; Axles; Hardware; Haberdashery; Plate-glass; Cutlery; Nails; Crystal glassware; Window glass and hollow glassware; Crockery; Tulle or net; Gold and silver thread; Stationery; Brushware; Sailcloth; Cotton umbrellas; Copper sheets and nails; Oil colors; Butter; iron; Steel; Cotton velvet; Hats; and Rugs."

From these imports, one can also tell what kind of people lived in Manila in the 19th century, their needs and their wants. In a sense, they had come a long way since the Chinese brought silk, porcelain, iron and umbrellas in pre-colonial times.

The Philippines and the Filipinos had also developed more appetite for imported goods since Magellan brought gifts of brightly colored cloth, little bells, mirrors and other trinkets. It is also significant to note what items were exempted from customs tariffs and what was prohibited. Only the following items were banned from entering Philippine ports: pocket pistols, Spanish books printed outside the peninsula, and "gunpowder, rum and arack, crude and manufactured tobacco, opium, and finally all agricultural and industrial products similar to those of the country."

With regard to books, other 19th-century travelers noted that customs officers were particularly keen on the import ban on Bibles. Filipinos were not allowed to read Bibles by themselves as the Church was worried about a literal or worse, an interpretation of Scriptures that run counter to that taught by the friars.

This explains why Rizal bought a Bible when he went abroad to study. Some people misinterpret this as faith or devotion on his part, when it was simply intellectual curiosity. Filipinos were not allowed to own or read Bibles on their own in the Spanish period. Bookstores today have lots of Bibles in stock that come in all shapes, colors and sizes.

Exempt from customs duties were the following: alembics, pumps and machines; horses, goats and pigs; dye stuffs (except cochineal); flower and herb seeds; drawing paper; wood for shipbuilding called tec [teak?]; silver and gold minted and in bars; cotton thread for weaving, red, yellow, pink and green colors.

One wonders at the rationale for the above exemptions. Gold and silver came in tax free? Why were certain animals exempt from tariff? Does this mean that you had to pay taxes if you brought in cows, fowl or dogs? Why were customs duties waived on certain colors of cotton thread but not others? Lannoy's now stale data provide a glimpse of economic life in the mid-19th century but more importantly, gives us perspective and and an appreciation for life in the 21st century.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

'Po'

"HELLO, may I speak to Mr. Arroyo please?"

Silence.

"Hello? Hello?" You're wondering what's happened and might even put down the phone, thinking you've been disconnected. If you're patient enough though, you'll eventually hear sounds in the background and Mr. Arroyo's footsteps as he approaches the phone and finally answers.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

What I just described actually happens all the time in the Philippines. In Tagalog, we describe the silence as "*ni ho ni ha.*" neither a "ho" nor a "ha" as the person who answered the phone goes off to get the person you're looking for, without a "Just a minute please" or the (incorrect) "For a while sir."

Until recently, I'd get quite upset whenever I got that "silent treatment," seeing it as rudeness on the part of the person who answered. The final straw came when I got that treatment from operators at a five-star hotel in Manila. I complained to management. They were shocked this was happening and ordered a retraining of their operators.

Yet, it took my Canadian brother-in-law, who was the person I was trying to contact at the hotel, to "defend" the operators. He said he'd seen the same behavior among the Inuit (Eskimos) in Canada. An Inuit food server, for example, will take your order and then just walk away in silence, coming back after some time with the food. That behavior might again be interpreted as rude, or leave you wondering if you did something wrong and had offended the waiter.

Sounds of silence

There are vast differences in etiquette across cultures, including the way we express politeness in language. These differences can create problems, especially as we become more globalized and have to deal directly with people of different cultures. Imagine a large firm in Europe calling your office and getting the silent treatment from your operators; you could actually lose business because the callers—Westerners or Filipinos like myself—might interpret the operators' "*ni ho ni ha*" as a lack, not just of etiquette, but of professionalism on the part of the entire company.

Silence has different meanings in different cultures. Filipinos lapse into silence when we're in a tense or uncertain situation. When there are conflicts in the office for example, the Western response is to call for a "dialogue," which can turn out to be a fiery match, with protagonists shouting at each other and then shaking hands at the end. In a Filipino setting, bringing protagonists together will only mean cold stony silence. A good manager has to understand the silence does not mean an inability to dialogue but is actually an act of politeness. The silence means both sides are too hurt, too angry, to communicate and they know this. They are unwilling to start a conversation that will only end up in "*kabastusan*," being rude to each other. The silence is a polite way of asking for more time.

In other instances, the silence may mean "Let's not discuss this anymore. Let's not have a Tupperware party." Tupperware? That's slang for saying "The other side is totally insincere so let's not try to be plastic, like Tupperware." That's a form of etiquette, too, not wanting to waste the precious time of the office.

Women are particularly effective with this silence, knowing that sometimes that silence can be a sign of strength, especially when jousting with men. On the surface, the silence may seem like acquiescence, but eventually the male realizes he has lost the battle, that the woman's silence means, "I will not stoop to your level and get insulted by more of your lies. I forgive you, but I will never, never forget."

Melodrama as etiquette

Paradoxically, we also swing to the other extreme of saying too much when we try to be polite. It was UP Prof. Jeena Rani Marquez who first alerted me to this phenomenon in a paper she presented in a conference two or three years ago. She introduced her paper by reading a letter from a student who wanted to return to the university after having taken a leave of absence for three semesters.

The letter had 154 words, with the student going into a long explanation of her leave, how she got pregnant, how she had a "wonderful baby boy," how she thought of returning to school but how financial difficulties prevented her from doing so and how they couldn't afford to get a *yaya* (nanny) for her son and nephew ("both are babies," she qualifies).

Marquez's point was that the long narrative was unnecessary and could have even become counter-productive, with a university official negatively reacting to all the melodrama. On the other hand, the letter is "correct" in terms of Filipino etiquette because it invokes our value of *pakiramdam*, "feeling the other person's feelings." To get to the point, seen as a virtue in the West, may seem rude so we tend to bring in some kind of introduction to conversations, letters, even casual encounters. That includes the rude (by Western standards), "*Uy*, you've put on weight" to people already in despair with their being overweight and "*Uy*, you're losing so much weight" to people already feeling emaciated.

Returning to the student, note that if her letter had been in Filipino, it would probably have elicited less negative reactions. The use of English sets the tone for the exchange: when we speak or write in English, we're expected to take on "American" or "Western" values, including being direct, with verbosity then becoming an affront ("What a waste of my time" or "Who's she trying to fool?").

Translating 'po'

Still another paradox: the student's letter might actually have been shorter if she had written it in Filipino. Marquez points out that Filipinos sometimes become more verbose when making a request in English because we suddenly find ourselves at a loss when we cannot use "*po*" from Tagalog and some Philippine languages.

"*Po*" is a powerful magical word that dispenses with the need to go into lengthy introductions. "*Pahingi*" (Give me) sounds almost aggressive but "*pahingi po*" is polite, even endearing. Yet "*po*" defies translation, which explains another dilemma in our now bilingual society: when we write in English, the absence of a "*po*" makes the letter-writing difficult. Note the difference between, "I would like to return to study this semester," which can sound almost demanding and which would therefore have required long rationalizations, and "*Nais ko pong bumalik sa pag-aaral ngayong* semester."

Different languages employ different "devices" for etiquette. Besides the "*po*" in Tagalog we have "*paki-*", somewhat like the English "please." Cebuano does not have "*po*," which can create problems when a Cebuano talks with Tagalogs. The Cebuanos do have "*palihug*," similar to the English "please" and Tagalog "*paki*" but also incorporating a sense of "only if you want to."

Learning to "switch" around the codes of etiquette in different languages can be daunting, but it is essential, *palihug lang po* please, we pick up this skill if we are to survive in our multicultural age.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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Let's go after media extortionists

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice should thoroughly investigate the extortion racket allegedly being operated by a group of media practitioners in the guise of conducting an anti-graft campaign.

Even as media legitimately ask the government to go after the killers of media men (nearly 50 journalists have been murdered since the 1980s), they should also continuously purge the rotten apples from their ranks.

We call on the justice department, government prosecutors and the courts to enforce the full force of the law against media personalities who give the profession a bad name. By using the journalism profession as a cover for their unlawful acts, these individuals are not only violating the penal code, they are also undermining an institution that is vital to the preservation of our democratic way of life. They are destroying the credibility of the journalistic profession.

By claiming to undertake a campaign against corruption, while themselves extorting money through blackmail, these pen-wielding rogues are likewise sabotaging the government's drive against corruption.

The officials of the Department of Transportation and Communications should be commended for standing fast against the threats of the group. They have done the country a good service by exposing this gang of extortionists.

All media organizations—print and broadcast—should cooperate with the investigating agencies to show that they are sincere in upholding the integrity of the journalistic profession and freedom of the press.

—RAFAEL AQUINO,
rafael_aquino04@yahoo.com

UP economists' proposals questioned

I APPRECIATE my University of the Philippines co-alumni who were the subject of the news report "UP economists warn of RP crash in 2 years." (PDI, 8/23/04) However, I question the wisdom of their espousal of new taxes on fuel, vehicle registration and the oh-so-beloved value added tax—an idea that goes against the economic principle of supply and demand.

It may generate more revenues at the start, but only for a very short while. It will surely depress the economy more rapidly over the long term as it will discourage new investments and consumer activity because of further reduced take-home pay and ballooning inflation.

Manage the new laws well? As it is, the government can't even enforce the existing laws; and its bureaucracy discourages small but job-generating businesses which could provide new sources of additional government revenues.

The Philippine government imposes on its citizens punitive and redundant taxes that are extremely higher than those charged by most advanced countries. At current tax rates, you would think government could provide the necessary nationwide infrastructure for development, reliable basic services like power and water, and nationalized health care. Instead, it is known all over the world that 40 percent of our country's national funds are stolen by our officials.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and her administration should think of seriously addressing this and other types of graft and corruption first before asking the long-suffering, hard-working and honest Filipinos to sacrifice even more.

—CP DE LA CRUZ,
bingsubs@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Now comes specter of water rate increase

FIRST it was oil. Now it's water.

The Supreme Court decision declaring all local water districts in the country as government-owned or controlled corporations—subjecting them to pay numerous taxes and fees and other exactions they were previously exempted from paying by virtue of a government promise, as well as to remit half of their net earnings to the National Treasury—will force water districts to pass on such costs to their consumers by way of water rate increases.

With the tumult that rising oil prices continue to stir in our country, isn't it a glaring overkill to trouble every household with an impending increase in the price of such basic necessity as water?

Just as it protected each and every Filipino consumer from the brunt of power rate hikes, I just hope the Supreme Court, for the sake of giving Filipinos the security of affordable drinking water, will reconsider its decision.

—JOEY ALBASTRO,
Blk. 8, Lot 23 Mahogany St.,
Hillcrest Village, Camarin,
Caloocan City

Power and generating capacity

I REFER to the Special Report: "Napocor: A cross RP has to bear" (PDI, 8/17/04) by Abigail L. Ho.

The series is timely, informative and well written, except that it fails to clarify to readers that "power" and "generating capacity" are altogether two different things. "Power" means the actual electrical energy in the system; "generating capacity" is the rated capacity of the generating plants (various independent power producers plus Napocor).

Hence, while we have excess generating capacity, we choose not to generate excess power because to do so would be absurdly wasteful.

We have been languishing (since the late '90s) in the very large excess generating capacity that FVR-Viray et al. contracted with the independent power producers in very cavalier fashion under the extraordinary emergency power (which was abused) granted by Congress.

Ho should rectify this confusion between the terms for the benefit of the public—including some of our legislators.

—ALFREDO V. ASUNCION,
93 Castrillo St.,
Barangay Ugong Norte,
Quezon City

THANK you for pointing out the difference between power and generating capacity. You were right in your definitions. The difference might not have been explained in much detail in the article. But it was not my intention to create confusion. I only wanted to simplify a highly convoluted issue.

—ABIGAIL L. HO,
Inquirer reporter

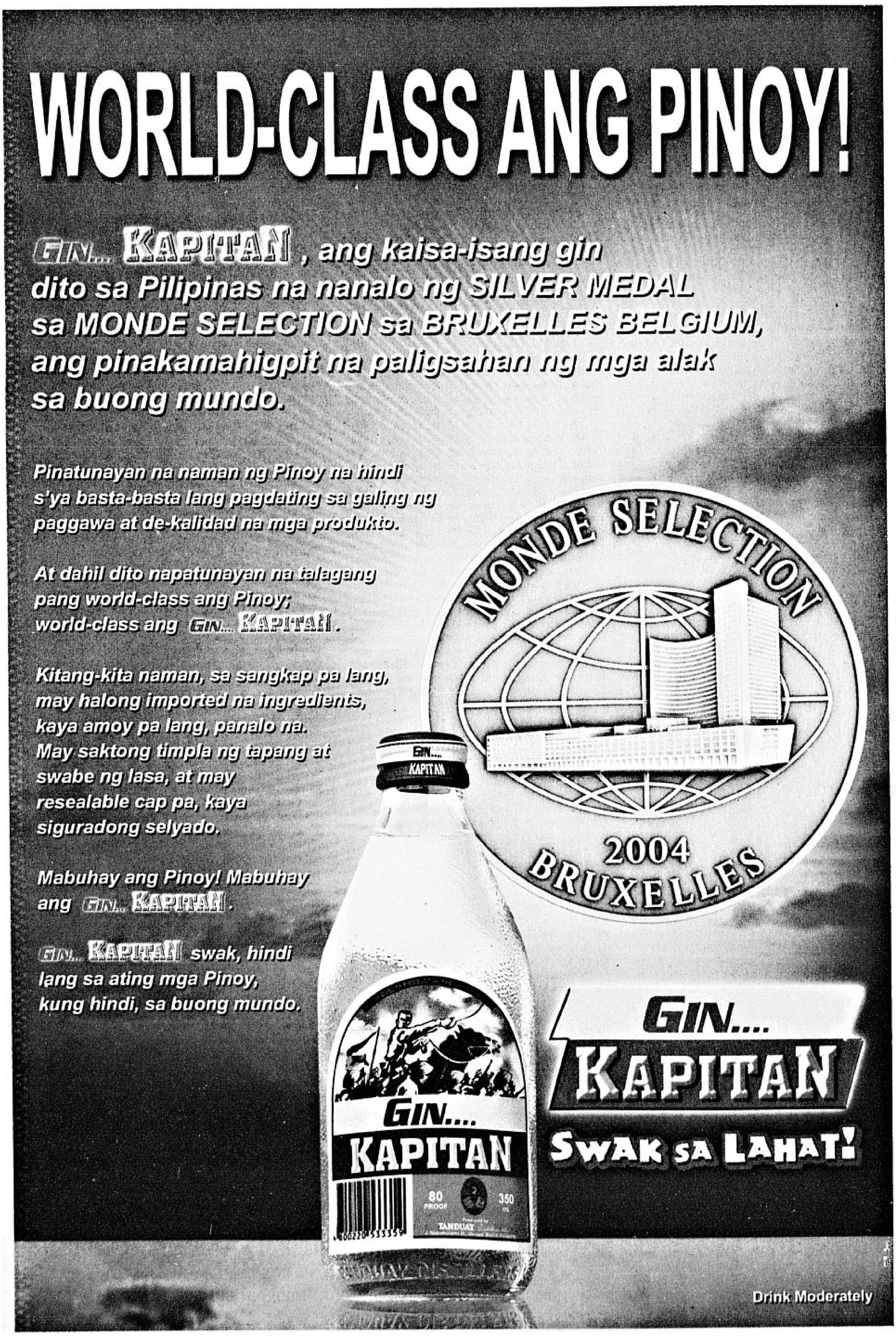
Decide on Filipinos' side

THIS is in reaction to the story "US envoy says RP no longer part of the coalition," which was published on the front page of the Aug. 10 issue of the INQUIRER.

President Macapagal-Arroyo must not be frightened by this "kick-out" style of American policy. Her decision to pull out the RP mission from Iraq was right. For over a century now, our country has been dependent on the United States for many of our needs, but this has not made us grow as a nation. We are a sovereign nation. Our government must stand by what is right for its people.

President George W. Bush lied to the world when he said that the United States was going to war against Iraq to destroy Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. Until now, no WMD has been found.

—JOSEFINO S. BISDA,
National Printing Office
Diliman, Quezon City
josefino_bisda@yahoo.com


WORLD-CLASS ANG PINOY!

GIN... KAPITAN, ang kaisa-isang gin dito sa Pilipinas na nanalo ng SILVER MEDAL sa MONDE SELECTION sa BRUXELLES BELGIUM, ang pinakamahigpit na paligsahan ng mga alak sa buong mundo.

Pinatunayan na naman ng Pinoy na hindi s'ya basta-basta lang pagdating sa galing ng paggawa at de-kalidad na mga produkto.

At dahil dito napatunayan na talagang pang world-class ang Pinoy; world-class ang GIN... KAPITAN.

Kitang-kita naman, sa sangkap pa lang, may halong imported na ingredients, kaya amoy pa lang, panalo na. May saktong timpla ng tapang at swabe ng lasa, at may resealable cap pa, kaya siguradong selyado.

Mabuhay ang Pinoy! Mabuhay ang GIN... KAPITAN.

GIN... KAPITAN swak, hindi lang sa ating mga Pinoy, kung hindi, sa buong mundo.

GIN.... KAPITAN
SWAK SA LAHAT!

Drink Moderately

On pork barrel

POLITICIANS are crazy for pork. They cheat in the elections for it. Project beneficiaries are lucky if they get 30 percent of these funds. Ghost projects are all over the country.

There are very few politicians who are honest with their pork barrel; but the good they do with their pork does not justify the evils that the pork barrel system engenders.—**Jun Mercado, Wye, Ashford, Kent, UK, via e-mail**

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* * *

Allocating pork barrel to each member of Congress is not proper. The legislative branch may enact laws authorizing the implementation of projects and appropriate funds for such projects; but, beyond that, they are not supposed to exercise control over the funds.—**Elsa Bayani, 3708 North Hills Blvd., North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116, via e-mail**

* * *

One wishes that your editorial writer would highlight the more significant and obviously problematic causes of the fiscal crisis, more than the pork barrel of legislators. By the writer's own admission, "even if ... abolished, the government would save only about P20 billion, a little over 2 percent of next year's proposed budget."

For starters, why not talk about the fact that, last year, the government gave the private business sector P229 billion worth of fiscal incentives, which should have been more than enough to cover the targeted budget deficit of P197.8 billion at the end of this year?

The recently launched Alliance of Concerned Citizens Opposed to Unjust, New Taxes (ACCOUNT) said that improving tax collection and administration is a better alternative to legislating new tax laws.

By the way, you might also mention that among those who organized ACCOUNT, as well as the group of congressmen called Alliance of Legislators Against Regressive Taxes (ALERT), are Bayan Muna representatives, including Teddy Casiño. He is the same party-list representative you chose to castigate in four paragraphs of your editorial for daring to suggest that the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) is not the major cause of the perennial problem of government deficits. It is, Casiño correctly pointed, the propensity of the government—since the time of Marcos up to the present administration of Arroyo—to kowtow to the anti-people impositions of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank as well as to toady to multinational banks and corporations.

One wishes that this is just an example of your editorial writer's myopia, an attempt to pander to a popular but mistaken view attributing all our fiscal woes to graft and corruption.

Unfortunately, I have a sneaky feeling it may have something to do with the likely demolition job on Bayan Muna, which has demonstrated its vastly superior political will to fight off government attempts to squeeze blood from our extremely hard-up and hard-pressed people. Truly "the exercise of political will is what we need," as your editorial so aptly put it. Too bad, you demand it of Bayan Muna rather than from the more obvious choice—the Arroyo administration.—**Carol Araullo, 1 Maaralin, Central District, QC, via e-mail**

* * *

Abolishing the pork barrel will hardly make a dent on the P5.39-trillion public debt. Neither would it increase the number of farm-to-market roads unless kickbacks are eliminated in all government projects.—**Nicolas F. Gomez Sr., 416 Heathcliff Dr., Pacifica, CA 94044 USA, via e-mail**

* * *

I believe congressmen should lead by example in saving on costs due to the crisis we're in right now. Instead of sports utility vehicles, which consume a lot of expensive fuel, let them use Asian utility vehicles, like FXs, and those that consume less fuel. Or better yet, let them travel in car pools.—**Jojo Makimkim, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, via e-mail**

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Journalist killer is still at large

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police have tapped an unidentified person to serve as negotiator for the surrender of former police officer Guillermo Wapile, who was tagged as the murderer of Pagadian City journalist Edgar Damalerio.

Chief Supt. Servando Hizon, Western Mindanao police director, issued this statement while denying reports Wapile had been arrested.

Earlier, reports quoting Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay said Wapile had been arrested on Tuesday night.

"Perhaps General Aglipay was misquoted," Hizon said.

Hizon said it was Wapile's wife who was taken into police custody and not the suspected gunman.

"Wapile's wife is now with us," Hizon said.

He said the wife has volunteered to help, which boosted optimism the police would get Wapile sooner than expected.

"We have already established direct contact with PO1 Wapile... and, in due time, we will get him," he said.

Hizon gave no details of Wapile's whereabouts, other than that the suspect was not in Mindanao.

Hizon said based on the initial feedback from the emissary, Wapile was "willing to make himself available before the court."

Optimism

He said with the latest development, police were optimistic that Wapile would yield before the week ended.

"We will get him within this week," Hizon said.

He said the former police officer insisted he was not involved in the May 13, 2002 murder of the journalist.

Damalerio was on his way home from a press conference when shot.

Witnesses tagged Wapile as the gunman.

Wapile was taken into custody by then Zamboanga del Sur provincial director Supt. Pedrito Reyes but disappeared two days before the court issued a warrant for his arrest.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, a broadcaster who took over slain commentator Jun Pala's time slot in the Davao City-based dxGO Aksyon Radyo said unidentified suspects sent him P2,500 cash as "death aid."

Frank Gupit said the money and the note were placed in an envelope.

He believes the suspects wanted to scare him.

"I am not afraid to die because no one will last in this world, all of us will die," he said.

Gupit has been critical of several politicians in Davao Oriental, including Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil.

Other murders

While police continue to fail to solve the murders of journalists, a coalition of fishermen in Quezon are demanding an investigation on the death of four of their colleagues allegedly in the hands of government soldiers.

The group Pamalakaya said the four were murdered from 2001 to the 2004 May elections.

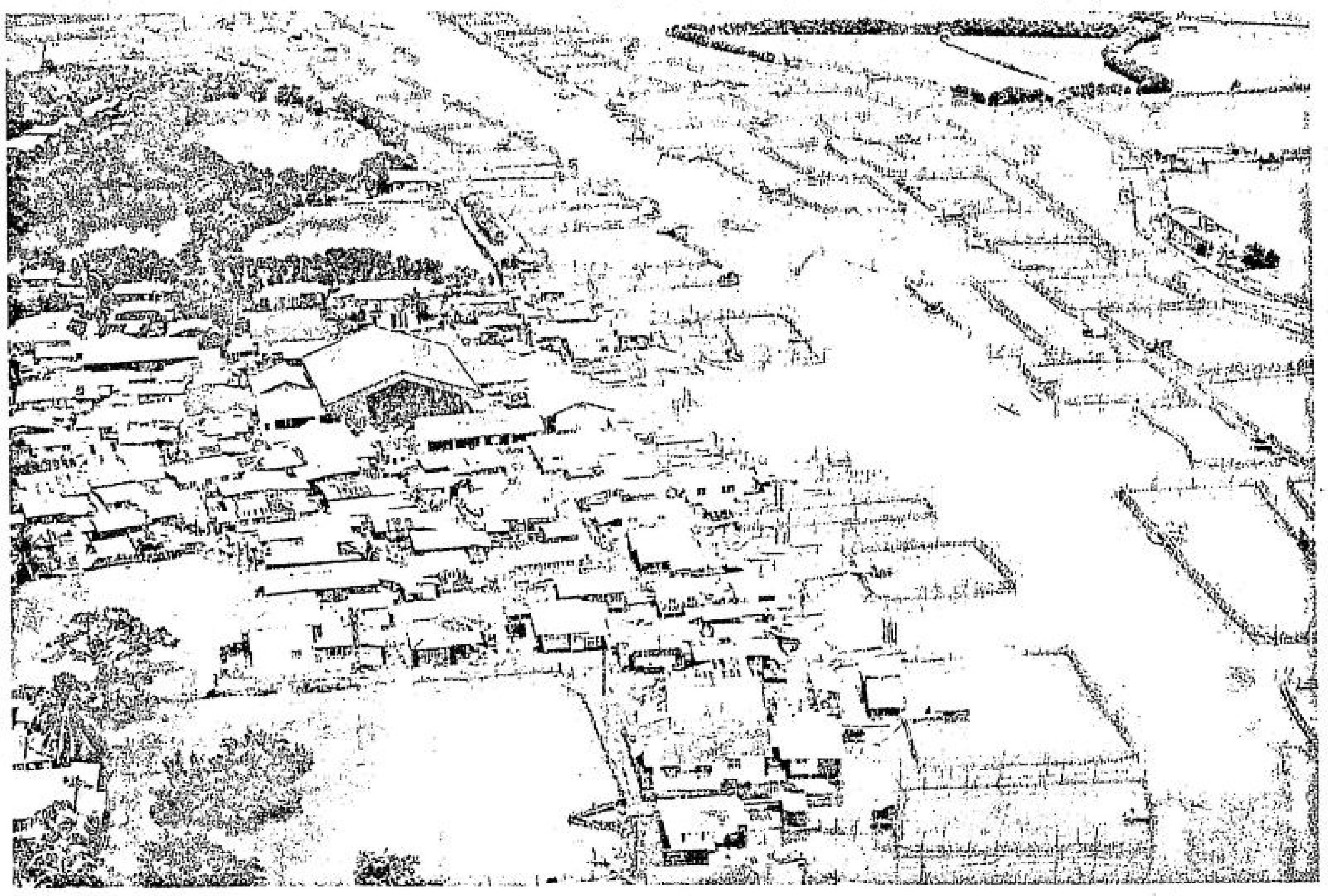
"Justice is non-negotiable. We will carry out the campaign and have those evil minds behind this string of political repression and murders punished," said the group in a statement.

The "Justice for Pamalakaya 5" movement is composed of relatives, friends and supporters of the four fishermen who were killed and the wife of one of them, who survived an attack.

On Nov. 23, 2002, alleged members of "Bonnet Gang" murdered Pamalakaya-Puerto Galera official Oscar Sacdalan inside his house in Barangay Tabinay, Puerto Galera, Mindoro Oriental.

Two days later, the headless body of Anthony Martinez, another Pamalakaya-Puerto Galera leader, was found a few kilometers away from the town's poblacion.

Julie S. Alipala and Hernan P. dela Cruz, with reports from Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



A VIEW of the floods in Dagupan City with its fish cages clearly visible.

ROGER MARGALLO

2 more drown in Pampanga as flooding continues

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two more people drowned in Pampanga as draining floodwaters rose and continued to spill unto the province's coastal villages.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council identified the latest fatalities on Wednesday as Erwin Maniaul, 35, of Paralaya in Candaba town and Hazel Fajardo, 10, of Sta. Lucia Anac in Masantol.

These brought to six the death toll from flood-related incidents in Pampanga since typhoons Marce and Chaba raged last week.

A week after the height of the disaster, at least 176 of Pampanga's 507 villages were still under two to eight feet of water, the PDCC said.

These were villages in the towns of Macabebe, Masantol, Minalin, Arayat, Sasmuan, Apalit, Sta. Rita, Guagua, Sto. Tomas, Sta. Ana, Candaba, San Luis and San Simon and the City of San Fernando.

The number of flood-affected residents increased to 681,820 even as Pampanga enjoyed largely fair weather since Sunday.

Gov. Mark Lapid said the damages to crops have reached P110.6 million; fisheries, P20.4 million, and infrastructures, P8 million.

As of 2 p.m. on Thursday, public works officials were confirming reports that a section of the Arayat-Apalit levee, a secondary dike to the Arnedo Dike, had burst.

Classes suspended

In Bulacan, classes in elementary and high school in Calumpit town remained suspended for over a week due to floodwaters. Some schools in the town were used as evacuation centers, according to Mayor James de Jesus.

He said residents from 11 villages had to deal with floodwaters six feet high.

De Jesus said the floodwaters that came from Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija on Friday were partly caused by the destruction of a small dike along the Pampanga River control system in Apalit.

Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Tarsier smuggling foiled

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

CORELLA, Bohol—Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) released two tarsiers on Tuesday, three days after they were recovered in a botched smuggle attempt at the Tagbilaran City airport.

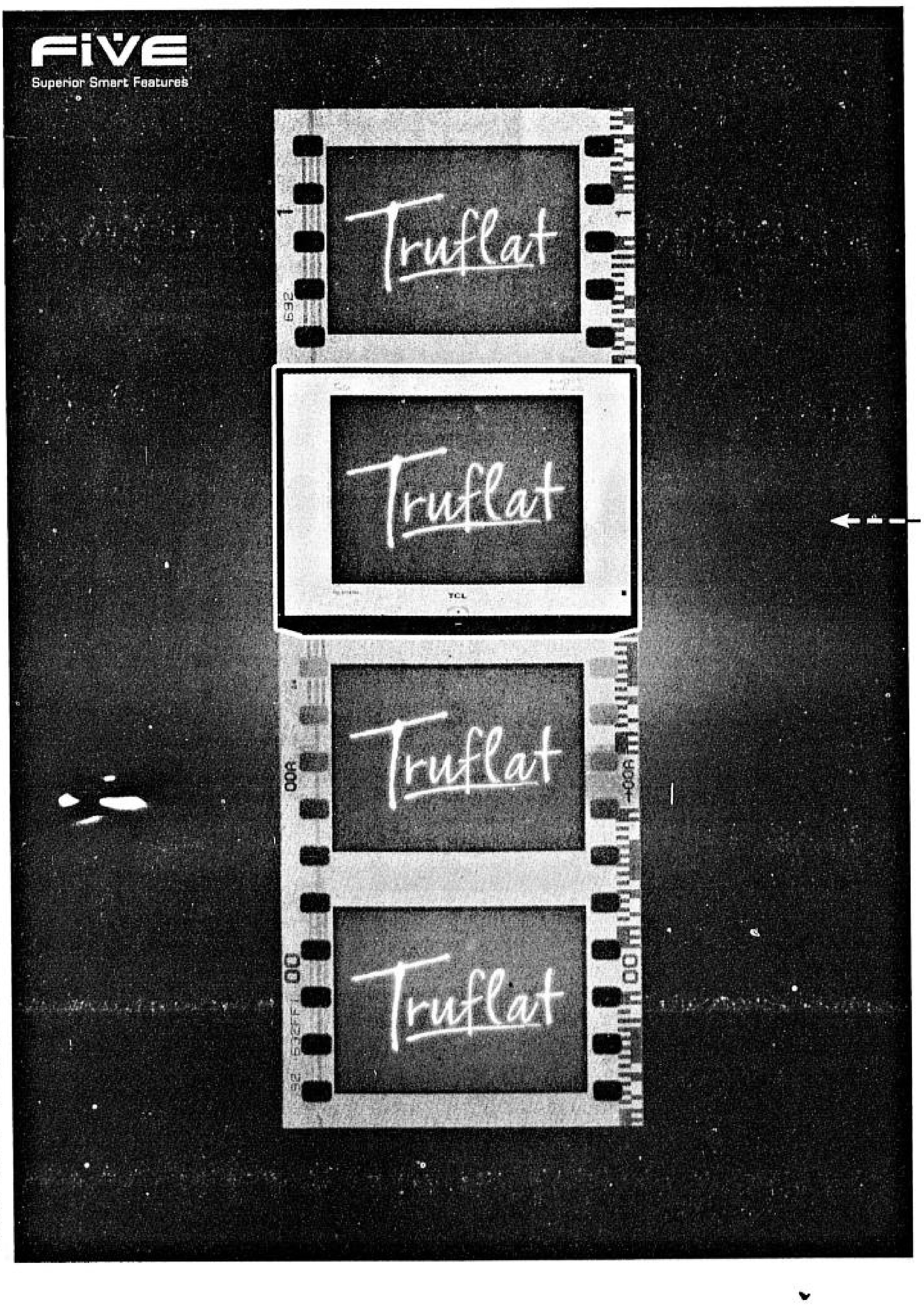
Vilma Elle, Ma. Corazon Colarines, Basilides Orioque and Victor Pondoc freed the tarsiers to the Philippine Tarsier Foundation Inc. (PTFI) conservation site in Canapnapan, Corella, about 12 kilometers from Tagbilaran.

The tarsiers paused briefly after Elle, Colarines and Orioque gently placed them on tree branches before they disappeared into a forested portion of the 167-hectare conservation site.

On Saturday morning, a still unidentified passenger of a Philippine Airlines flight bound for Manila abandoned two coconut shells that looked like kalamay containers.

Kalamay is a famous Boholano delicacy. Cooked primarily in the town of Jagna, it is popular as pasalubong (take-home gift) packed inside coconut shells.

Airport personnel became suspicious upon seeing the abandoned coconut shells and were surprised to see a tiny foot jut out of one shell.



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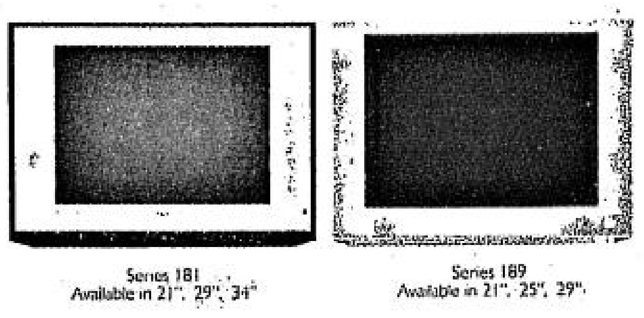

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DONATIONS, ANYONE!
Residents of a flooded village in Calumpit, Bulacan, are driven to begging for alms as floodwater continues to plague their community. JOAN BONDOC

DPWH asked to repair dike in Tarlac town

By Carlito Pablo
and Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways was called on yesterday to prioritize the repair of a collapsed dike in Paniqui, Tarlac, which was damaged by heavy flooding in the past several days.

The request was made by Rep. Gilberto Teodoro Jr. (NPC, Tarlac), warning that thousands of lives and millions of pesos worth of properties are under threat by future flooding if the breached dike in Colibangbang, Paniqui, is not immediately repaired.

Teodoro represents the first district of Tarlac which include Paniqui, one of the hardest hit towns in the province by floods last week.

"We expect heavy downpour to continue in the coming days. If this happens, the sheer volume of water coming out of the collapsed dike will submerge the whole town under water," Teodoro said in a statement.

Thousands of Paniqui residents from 20 barangays were earlier evacuated as floodwaters submerge several areas in the municipality.

"More barangays would be under water because of the collapsed dike. The effect of this in the lives and livelihood of the people of Paniqui and nearby towns is unimaginable," Teodoro said.

The Colibangbang dike is part of the Agno River Flood Control Project under the Project Management Office of the DPWH.

Teodoro is also coordinating with the Department of Agriculture for the provisions of seeds needed to replant rice farms destroyed by the fire.

Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez said he wants reports on the status of infrastructure projects all over the country to reach his office faster.

He has ordered the newly created Project Monitoring Group to come up with its monthly report in 10 days. The PMG used to have 15 days to process its report.

Soriquez required project engineers to submit their accomplishment reports to the regional and district offices and the local project monitoring offices as early as the 25th of every month.

DPWH chief orders strict vehicle rules

BE STRICT in the allocation of vehicles to support the President's call for government officials and agencies to observe cost-cutting measures.

This was the order made by Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez to the Bureau of Equipment following the transfer or reassignment of officials of the department who reportedly bring with them the vehicles assigned to their respective offices.

Through Department Order No. 117, the DPWH head directed his subordinates that no service vehicles assigned to one office should be transferred to another without the approval of the head of the Bureau of Equipment, as all DPWH service vehicles are under the custodial responsibility of the bureau.

This would ensure that the successors of assigned or transferred personnel would be able to use the service vehicles assigned to their offices, the DPWH head said.

DPWH service vehicles are vital in supervising and monitoring infrastructure projects, Soriquez said, emphasizing that the said vehicles are assigned to the department, not to particular individuals.

Soriquez added that tightening vehicle allocations would lower operating and maintenance costs in the agency.

Baguio dump swallows 2 bulldozers

BAGUIO CITY—The torrential rains triggered by two typhoons last week softened Baguio's only landfill to virtual pulp and buried two of the city's waste management equipment.

Romeo Concio, Baguio chief of the Office of General Services (OGS), said the unusual phenomenon prevented Baguio's 90 garbage men from collecting trash for almost a week during the rains.

He said runoff water from the sustained rains formed a small lake at the heart of the dump. Two bulldozers stationed there sank all the way down the softened garbage bowl.

"Only the roof of the bulldozers were visible. We managed to pull out one bulldozer last weekend, but the other bulldozer is still buried," he said.

"This is the first time our equipment was swallowed by garbage in my 10 years of working here," he added.

Rains were also blamed for a sinkhole that opened up on Friday at a section of Burnham Park, where the bust of Daniel Burnham stands.

The park and lake were named after Burnham, the American architect who designed Baguio City at the turn of the 20th century.

Heavy load

Baguio needs to collect 1,080 tons of garbage that have been abandoned since Thursday, based on estimates given by garbage collectors themselves.

The collectors have been put on 24-hour work until all the garbage is collected and delivered to the dump.

Garbage collectors have to concentrate on downtown Baguio and the city public market, where refuse have piled up five feet high.

Routine pickup has resumed for some barangays, although many villages have to contend with noxious fumes from decomposing garbage that are left open to the elements.

But instead of a pat on the back, the OGS employees were surprised when the backlog was linked to a sabotage attempt against the new city administration because of a scheduled reorganization that would fuse the OGS with a new environment office by Sept. 1.

City employees have objected to the city streamlining plan that will cut down the city government's work force. It was proposed before the May 2004 elections by former Mayor Bernardo Vergara, and was incorporated in the 2004 city budget by the previous city council.

Privatization

The Vergara administration had also proposed to privatize garbage collection, a part of its efficiency drive.

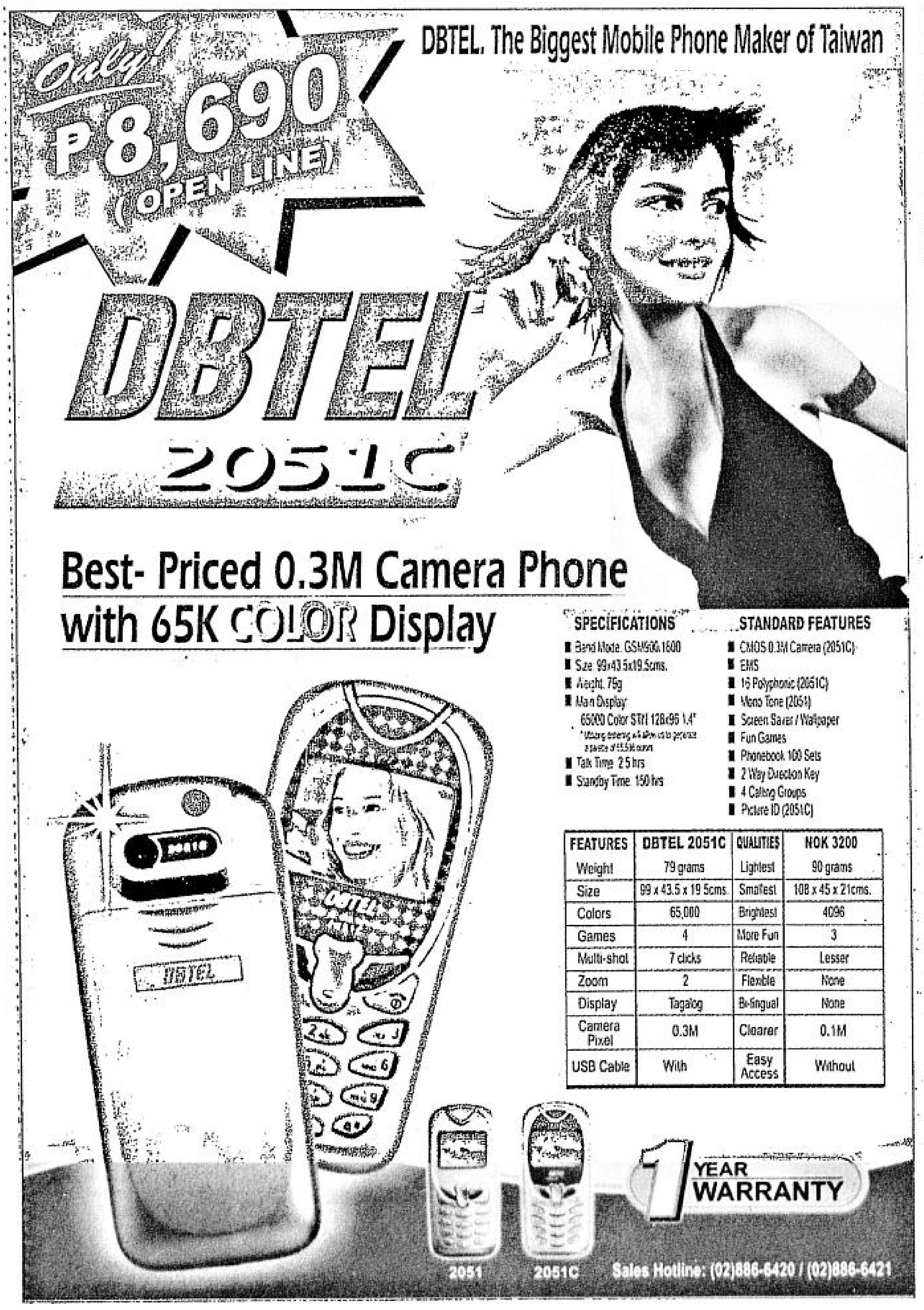
Mayor Braulio Yaranon announced to the employees during the Monday flag-raising ceremony at City Hall that he would not implement the reorganization plan, after his aides looked into the city's week-long garbage crisis.

"We will never deliberately abandon garbage. It takes longer for us to scrape decomposed garbage. We can't even hurl it at the truck so it takes us more time to load up and deliver the trash to the dump," Concio said.

But the crisis should persuade barangays to consider recycling, he said. Only three barangays have initiated waste segregation programs, in lieu of an ordinance that requires all households to separate organic from inorganic trash, OGS documents show.

The city government is operating a 20-ton composting facility, which will process the market's daily refuse. The Department of Agriculture has certified the plant's production as suitable farm input materials.

But the plant needs to be expanded to process Baguio's 150-ton organic waste each day, Concio said.



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Subic investors to close shop over tax changes

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Several investors here have warned that they would close shop, a move that could lead to the massive layoff of thousands of workers, should the Bureau of Internal Revenue insist on collecting additional revenues granted to freeport-registered enterprises.

In a statement, officials of the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce (SBFCC) said the efforts of the Arroyo administration to attract foreign and local investors would "hit a snag" if the BIR pursued its plan to collect more taxes.

"Subic Freeport is moving up fast in terms of job creation through the entry of new investments, but the BIR is trying to obstruct its upward progress [and this] could even lead to the collapse of the freeport zone," Jose Saddul, SBFCC president, said.

He said the pullout of foreign investments and the loss of thousands of jobs would prevent the government from achieving its goal of increasing employment. It would also hamper the development of the Subic-Clark corridor, which is included in President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point agenda.

"Changing the rules in the midstream is definitely not acceptable to investors and that not only the government, but the entire country, will be at the losing end once the retrenchment and exodus of foreign investors happen," he said.

The investors are protesting the BIR's declaration of the impending issuance of revenue regulations which would amend Revenue Regulations (RR) 1-95 governing the implementation of tax incentives given to Subic locators.

The BIR also proposes to disallow all "administrative, selling and operating expenses" even if particular types of expenses can be shown to have been incurred directly and exclusively in the registered activity.

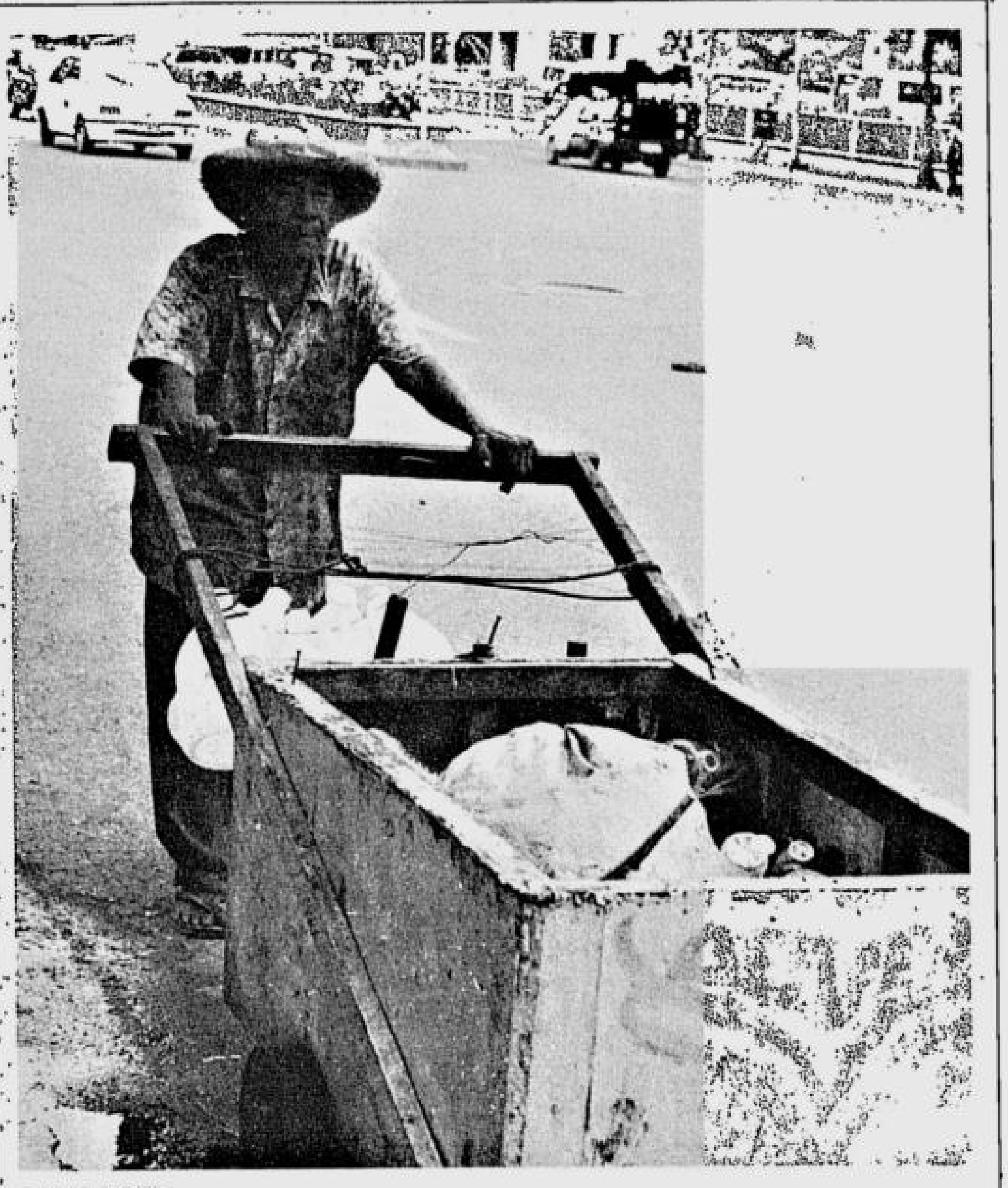
"Instead of generating more revenues as the BIR expects, the proposed amendments will result in the contraction of business activities inside the freeport zone," Saddul said.

He said foreign investors, including the Japanese and Taiwanese, are agitated over the BIR move to revise the regulations on tax incentives to the "disadvantage of the investors."

Ichiro Tsuji, president of the Subic Techno Park, said Japanese investors were also "very disappointed" over the proposed changes of the revenue regulations.

"How can Subic or the Philippines convince foreign investors to stay if, instead of encouraging them to maintain their business or even expand their presence in the country, the BIR is tightening the grip and trying to squeeze money out of them?" Tsuji asked.

Hiroyuki Tsuchiya, another Japanese investor and managing director of Asia International Auctioneer Inc., described the BIR's plan as "high-handed." *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



TRAVELER
ALNOE PALER/CDN
An unidentified man tries his luck in collecting junk near the Cebu Reclamation Area.

Ibalois discover how they were driven from Baguio by Yanks

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—We all know how the West was won, but just how did the Americans win Baguio from the Ibalois in the 20th century when the call for civil rights was starting to influence politics in the United States?

Ibalois, the original settlers of Baguio City, have always wondered why their homes are now found within the city's few forested areas because there are no records of an Ibaloi exodus from Baguio before 1909.

But a historical trace commissioned by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp) in 2003 suggests that the American colonial government used "deceptive" land and health laws to slowly push Ibaloi settlements and cattle ranches out of what became downtown Baguio.

FORMER actress Virginia de Guia, 86, and Conrado Romero, 88, Baguio City's oldest Chinese-Filipino migrant, stand before the bust of George Malcolm, the US colonial government official who wrote Baguio's charter.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

The city celebrated its 95th charter anniversary on Sept. 1.

"The (American colonial government) was careful about directly displacing Ibalois from Baguio, based on our research," said Joseph Jude Carantes, member of the Ibaloi research team asked by Opapp to draw up a sociological and anthropological profile of Baguio-based Ibalois.

The Opapp study's conclusions impact strongly on some of the city's controversial ancestral land claims, which cover sections of downtown Baguio and its diminishing watersheds.

Disappearing traces

Government agencies mandated to issue ancestral land titles have resisted processing these titles for Baguio because of the disappearing anthropological traces of Ibaloi settlements at Baguio's very center.

The 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) requires sociological and historical proof that an Ibaloi clan had physical control over an ancestral land before it can be titled to the family.

There are no accounts explaining why Ibaloi settlements disappeared between 1903 and 1909, when the US plowed money into heavy construction in order to execute the "Burnham Plan," the grand Chicago-based design for the city by architect Daniel Burnham, the Opapp study said.

Burnham proposed carving out a garden-like township called Baguio from the former rancherias of Kapaoay (Kafagway), Itogon and the La Trinidad pueblo in 1906.

The study obtained several chronicles that place the number of Ibaloi residents at 811 when Baguio was being built, but there were no records explaining where they went before the city was officially chartered in 1909, Carantes said.

Early government investigations of ancestral land claims in Baguio used this mystery as proof that indigenous claims in the city were wrong.

Carantes said this is ironic because Baguio is considered the heart of the ancestral land crusade.

The landmark US Supreme Court ruling of 1909 that recognized Philippine ancestral lands benefited Ibaloi rancher Mateo Cariño, who challenged the US military's hold over Camp John Hay.

It was penned by Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., son of the writer and the jurist reputed for raising civil rights issues before the US judiciary.

To do justice

The Opapp study quotes Holmes' chastisement of the US colonial government: "Our first object in the internal administration of the islands is to do justice to the natives, not to exploit their country for private gain. By the Organic Act of July 1, 1902… all the property and rights acquired there by the United States are to be administered for the benefit of the inhabitants thereof."

This is significant because the Philippines had become the focal point of a civil rights debate since 1902.

Mark Twain, the most celebrated author of the time, led an "antiracist, anti-imperialist and revolutionary" crusade, called the Anti-Imperialist League, that opposed the US annexation of the Philippines and Cuba, according to an International Socialist Review article by Helen Scott.

The US colonial government was also under fire for "overspending" on the construction of Kennon Road between 1901 and 1903.

Given this political backdrop, the Opapp study noted that the US used "deceit" to relocate the Ibalois to avoid further political conflict.

"America's solution was a series of land registration laws that ignored the Ibaloi land ownership culture," Carantes said.

Land registration

The colonial government issued Commission Act 496 of 1902 that compelled Ibalois to register their lands, the Opapp study said. The following year, 1903, the colonial government issued Act 627, which gave settlers a time frame to prove their proprietary rights within military reservations like Camp John Hay before it is converted into public domain.

Between 1909 and 1924, the government also issued sanitation laws that forbade residents from keeping livestock like cattle or pigs at the center of town.

The Public Land Act (Act 926) soon followed, requiring Ibalois to patent their lands.

Carantes said the laws confused Ibalois, whose land designations were defined by the community.

"To the natives, the lands remained where they were. The Americans did not fence (John Hay) nor did they drive them away from their houses. Their existence, their farms and pasture lands were tolerated," the study noted.

Whether intentional or not, the US laws served to persuade Ibaloi ranchers to leave the township.

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RP, China to explore defense cooperation

By TJ Burgonio

BEIJING (via PLDT)—The Philippines and China agreed "in principle" yesterday to hold high-level talks on possible defense cooperation to ensure security in Asia, a top official accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo on her China visit said.

"This is the beginning of a new era in defense cooperation," Communications Director Silvestre Afable Jr. said in a briefing after the meeting between Ms Arroyo and Jiang Zemin, former Chinese president and now chair of the Central Military Commission.

"This will involve high-level exchanges of visitations of defense officials here. Maybe [we can] start with some kind of personnel training and expanded intelligence sharing," Afable said.

He said it was too premature to talk about the holding of joint exercises between the two countries.

After meeting with Jiang, Ms Arroyo directed Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz "to begin high-level talks" with Chinese officials on defense cooperation, Afable said.

"She was assured by Chairman Jiang that he will receive Secretary Cruz," he added.

Afable said he expected the talks to begin soon, noting that China had shown "great interest" in pursuing the matter.

"It's part of the overall framework of security cooperation that China and the Philippines are trying to build so that we can have peace and stability in Southeast Asia," he said.

Afable said defense exchanges between the two countries in the past had been virtually non-existent.

"It is only now that it has been agreed upon in principle by the highest leadership of both countries," Afable said.

The talks with Jiang highlighted the second day of Ms Arroyo's three-day state visit.

Ms Arroyo met with Jiang and later Premier Wen Jiabao at the Zhongnanhai, the headquarters of the Communist Party of China.

Ms Arroyo and the Chinese leaders also reached a consensus to work for the transformation of the South China Sea from an "area of conflict" to "an area of cooperation," according to Afable.

"This was also the theme of talks between President Arroyo and President Hu [Jintao] yesterday," he said.

"In both meetings it was agreed that we have reached the highest point of relations between the Philippines and China," he added, citing improved relations in trade and agriculture.

China and the Philippines are among the six countries which have laid claim to the disputed, potentially oil-rich Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

GMA takes time off for terra cotta warriors

From page A1

an translated Zhu's briefing on the history of the warriors.

Ms Arroyo returned to Beijing after the museum tour and met with Jiang Zemin, former president and chair of the Central Military Commission, at around 4 p.m. at the Zhongnanhai, the headquarters of the Communist Party of China.

She later met with Premier Wen Jiabao at the same venue.

She was scheduled to meet with the Filipino community at the Kerry Center Hotel last night.

By accident

The terra cotta warriors were accidentally discovered in 1974 by Chinese peasants digging a well.

The discovery drew archaeologists, who found that the warriors were situated around the mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

Upon assuming the throne at the age of 13 in 246 B.C., Qin ordered work on his tomb started. He also ordered a massive clay army to be produced for his protection in the afterlife.

As many as 6,000 clay figures were found in the first discovered site.

The second excavation took place in 1976, yielding 1,400 warriors, and the third in 1980. The third pit held only one chariot and six warriors.

5 agreements

On Wednesday, the first day of her three-day state visit to China, Ms Arroyo flew to Guangdong province for a briefing on the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

After lunch, she flew to Beijing where she held bilateral talks with President Hu Jintao and witnessed the signing of five agreements in the afternoon. *(See related story in Business, Page B1.)*

She invited Hu to visit Manila in June 2005 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of RP-China relations. Hu accepted the invitation.

After the talks, the Chinese leaders hosted a banquet for Ms Arroyo and her party.

Among the agreements between China and the Philippines is the joint study of potential oil deposits in the disputed Spratly Islands.

The agreement, signed by China National Offshore Oil Corp. and Philippine National Oil Co., "is not an oil exploration understanding but merely a cooperative and joint study on the oil potentials of the South China Sea area claimed by both China and the Philippines," Malacañang communications director Silvestre Afable said.

The two state firms agreed to a three-year joint research project on the "petroleum resource potential in certain areas of the South China Sea."

"It will be a pre-exploration study solely to collect, process and analyze seismic data. No drilling or development is covered under the study," they said.

The Philippines and China have territorial claims over the Spratlys, which sit on rich fishing grounds and reported vast oil reserves, and lie near key sea lanes.

The islands are also claimed wholly or in part by Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam. *With an AFP report*

Cooking gas, power rates up; belt-tightening now the norm

From page A1

try's slide into a fiscal crisis.

"We really have to adjust the rates because we cannot sustain the low rates indefinitely. This is part of the sacrifice that will be called and we expect everybody to pitch in," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing.

Napocor's petition for an average P1.85 per kilowatt-hour rate hike would boost its revenues by P75 billion, according to the Department of Finance and mean an end to the government's subsidy amounting to P60 billion this year.

The rate hike, which is still under review by the Energy Regulatory Commission, will nearly double the current rates for Napocor customers in its three main grids in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

Staying afloat

Because the high LPG prices had eroded their incomes, small restaurants, caterers and even the famous "Jollijeeps" in the backstreets of Makati have also had to do some belt-tightening of their own.

Ma. Jesusa Palad, mother of two and owner of Gugu's Catering, said small caterers like her had been having trouble coping with the rising cost of cooking gas, especially as this accounted for 15 percent of her operational expenses.

"It's like I'm under water and I can hardly breathe. I have to push harder to take some air in before plunging back," she relates. "The increasing prices are like that. As a businesswoman, I always have to push harder, struggle to stay afloat."

Even with the rising cost of LPG, Palad said she struggles to stay in business because of her employees—the waiters who have families of their own to feed—as well as her loyal customers.

If she closes shop, her employees would surely suffer, she said. When times get better in the future and she decides to go back to business, she will have lost her loyal clientele.

Despite the high operational costs, she says she has managed to keep her prices steady.

However, some cost-cutting measures are currently being implemented to ensure that her business does not fold up.

For parties and functions of her more frequent clients and close friends, she relates that she cuts down the number of waiters from five to three to save on wages.

This way, she is able to maintain her prices while managing to stay afloat. But she admits that this cannot go on forever, especially for small businesses like hers.

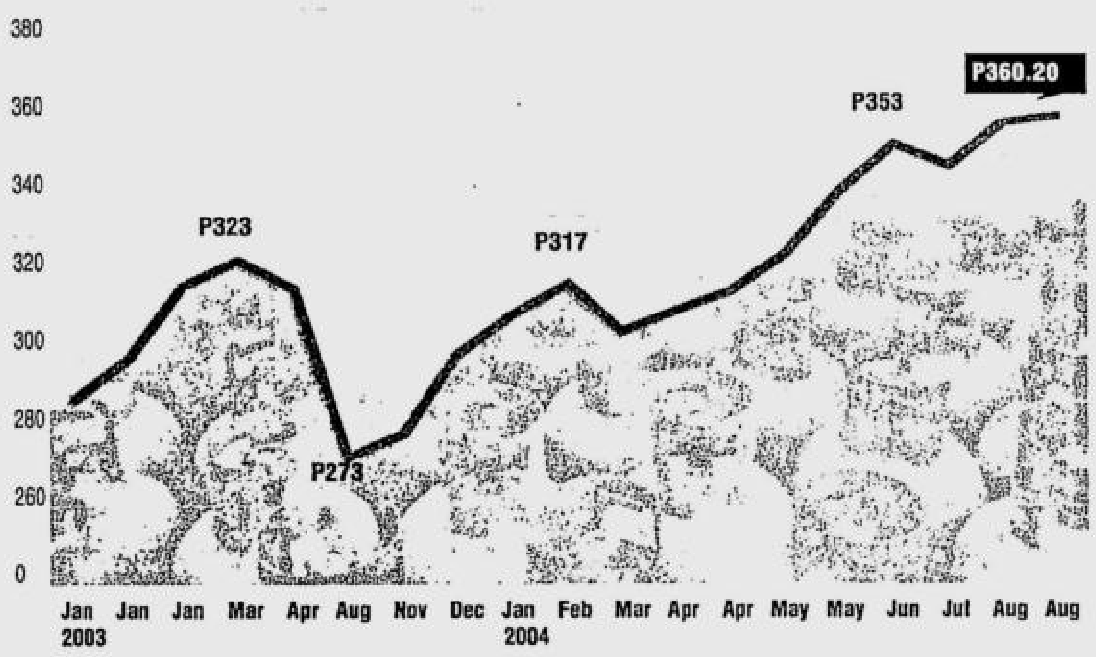
"We'll die. Bigger caterers can bring down their prices to match ours. Where are we going? There's so little business and too many business people. We hardly earn anything at all," she said.

While many are reeling from the rising cost of cooking gas, store owner and father of three Allan Daquiz has remained quite calm.

The escalating prices of basic commodities and tuition are what gets him worried.

LPG PRICES

Jan 2003 to Sep 1, 2004, peso per 11-kg cylinder



"But we get by. Maybe when I buy LPG again, I'll notice the increase and say 'how expensive.' But then again, it's okay. I'm more blessed than many others anyway," he said.

Major LPG suppliers

Arnel Ty, the association's president, said in a telephone interview yesterday that major LPG suppliers had already raised the prices of cooking gas by P2 a kilogram.

LPG refillers, some of the major players' biggest customers, were among the first to feel the increase, he said.

"But we've decided to pass on only P1.50 to our customers. We're absorbing the 50 centavos," he said.

He said LPG dealers had sought a discount from the big suppliers but this was not granted.

Major players Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. have yet to announce their price adjustments, however.

In fact, Petron, Caltex and Total categorically denied that they had already raised their prices. Shell officials could not be reached for comment.

But an industry source revealed that Shell had, in fact, already raised LPG prices by P1 per kilogram.

Worsening crisis

Bunye earlier admitted in an interview with dzRH radio that the President's decision stopping Napocor from increasing power rates in 2002 contributed to the government's worsening crisis.

"Everybody knows it's one of the causes and it's true (it is the biggest reason)," Bunye said.

In May 2002, Ms Arroyo ordered the state utility firm to temporarily lower its controversial purchased power adjustment charge by P1.25 per kWh to a uniform 40 centavos per kWh.

The President bowed to the clamor of the people to stop soaring electricity rates as she ignored warnings from the Senate that the move would bloat the budget deficit by P48 billion annually.

Bunye said that in solving the fiscal crisis, the government could not choose between raising power rates or imposing new taxes.

"It will have to be a combination of measures," said Bunye, who promised that the government would adopt safety nets to ensure that poor households would not be made to pay higher rates.

While the P80 billion to be raised from the eight revenue measures being pushed by the government would address the projected national government budget deficit of P198 billion, the Napocor rate hike would address the rest of the P112-billion financing shortfall in the P312-billion consolidated public sector deficit.

Aside from raising revenues, Napocor said the rate hike would encourage more foreign investors to put up new generation facilities that would beef up the power supply and avert a looming power crisis in the next three to five years.

The rate hike is on top of the P600 billion in Napocor debts that the government will absorb as part of the restructuring of the power industry. It will also end the P50 billion annual financial charges shouldered by the government.

JDV gets ₱350M in pledges on plane over China Sea

From page A1

said he had secured pledges from its passengers amounting to P350 million.

"I told them we have to save the country," De Venecia told reporters accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo on her state visit to China.

De Venecia apparently spared no one.

His donors included Ms Arroyo and her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, members of the Cabinet and most of the 105 businessmen—including the taipans—who had joined the trip.

One businessman grumbled.

"This is my most expensive foreign trip," he was quoted by a colleague as having groaned during the one-and-a-half-hour flight from Beijing to Xi'an City. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Chinese-Filipino businessmen on the plane were asked to make their pledges, ranging from P200,000 to P2 million.

De Venecia, who launched a special fund to help the cash-strapped government, chose to deliver his pitch during the flight apparently to make sure no one escaped.

The "victims" included beer and cigarette magnate Lucio Tan and Jimmy Tang, who each pledged P2 million, according to the Speaker.

Others made a P1-million pledge each—Robin Sy, president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, his executive vice president Francis Chua, Alfredo Yao, William Co, Joseph Chan, Domingo Chan and Henry Lim Bon Liong.

Serge Ortiz-Luis of Philippines Inc. and Coalition 100 said nobody was forced to contribute.

"You don't have to agree if you don't want to," he said.

Ortiz-Luis said his group, Coalition 100, pledged P100 million. "We would like to create a critical mass so we can encourage everyone, including the overseas workers, to give something regularly," he said.

Ms Arroyo, her husband and brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio Arroyo pledged P1 million each.

Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and Energy Secretary Vincent Perez each promised to shell out P500,000 from their own pockets, and Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, P200,000.

No pushover

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. drove a hard bargain.

"It's good symbolically although it can also backfire. From the point of view of pessimists, this is a gesture of panic," Pimentel said.

He maintained that the most effective way to check the country's fiscal crisis was for lawmakers to give up their countrywide development fund, or pork barrel.

The other businessmen who made a P500,000 pledge each were John Tan, Robert Sy, Joseph Lim, Seferino Benedicto, Stephen Sy, William Go, Joaquin Soliman, Rufino Copio and Siyap Chua, among others.

The rest promised P200,000 and P100,000 each.

Apart from individual contributions, the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce also pledged some P57 million, the Chinese Philippine Business Club, P300,000, and the Federation of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, P56 million.

More next week

"When I started the move two-and-a-half days ago, with my P1 million donation, my idea was to raise P5 billion," De Venecia said.

"With one single sweep, we can build 20,000 school houses, and install 20,000 computers so that our students can compete with the German, Japanese, European and American students," De Venecia added.

The President directed Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong to receive the pledges and issue receipts.

De Venecia said he was heartened by the outpouring of support from wealthy families and that he expected more donations to come in next week.

At least four other congressmen have each donated P100,000 while 37 others agreed to give up one month of their basic pay, or P35,000 each.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Riza Hontiveros said all three congressmen from her party-list group would also give up their one month pay and agree to a 50 percent cut in their pork barrel allocations.

El Shaddai evasive

The wealthy Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai evaded the issue of government taxing religious organizations, and instead announced it was spearheading a movement to raise at least P100 million to help the poor.

El Shaddai spokesperson Mel Robles said the group would raise at least P1 million each from 100 "men of goodwill who are truly concerned with our country."

He said El Shaddai spiritual leader Bro. Mike Velarde would give the first P1 million for the movement, called "Koalisyon Sandaan."

Robles did not categorically say if El Shaddai was against the proposal for the government to tax the church and other religious organizations.

He said that the money collected would be used to create a fund to provide credit to the poor.

Rewarding wrongdoers

Couples for Christ, whose members worldwide total one million, refused to comment on the proposal, saying these things needed to be discussed in a council.

But Bangon Pilipinas spokesperson Luis Sison, a member of the CFC, denounced taxing religious groups as tantamount to "rewarding wrongdoers" in government.

"Why are you punishing the clergy, who's doing the work of God?" Sison said. "Why raise money for the leadership, so it has more to steal?"

Mindanao businessmen were not inclined to contribute part of their resources to help solve the fiscal crisis without the government cleaning up its act first.

Sofronio Jucutan, president of the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: "Filipinos will not do that if they are not sure where their money will go."

Davao City Councilor Pete Lavina said the government's call for austerity measures was only for show.

"The President claimed that she will lead by example and not even a week later, she (went) on a junket with her family to China," he said.

Antonio Santos, chair of the Mindanao Business Council, said small enterprises, which make up the bulk of Mindanao businesses, were already in financial distress and the planned new taxes and power rate increase would spell their end.

Mindanao power bloc

"If push comes to shove, more business establishments in Mindanao will either close shop or retrench workers by the end of the year," he said.

In Cagayan de Oro City, local government units formed the Mindanao Power Bloc to oppose the planned power rate increase.

Some Church officials in the Visayas welcomed with reservations Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla's call for the clergy to donate some of their income to the government.

"Should the good citizens, who pay their taxes diligently, sacrifice while the corrupt officials continue to enjoy?" said Msgr. Meliton Oso, Jaro Archdiocese action director.

Pork audit

At the Senate, the Liberal Party called on the Commission on Audit to scrutinize the pork barrel-funded projects of all lawmakers in the face of allegations that these were ridden with corruption.

"We leave it to the COA to determine which period should be covered," said Senate President Franklin Drilon, one of five senators who had declared their readiness to give up their entire P200 million pork barrel allocations for next year. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Blanche S. Rivera and Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Joel B. Escovilla, Germelina A. Lacorte, Aquiles Z. Zonio and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Joey A. Gabieta, Bernadette Parco and Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

BIR comes up with 'magical P10B' more in its August collection

IS THE Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) fudging its tax collection data?

This question surfaced yesterday as the BIR produced what Rep. Joey Salceda (Lakas-Kampi, Albay) called a "magical P10 billion" to shore up its revenue collection for August.

Relying on a BIR report to the House ways and means committee on Aug. 31, Salceda released a statement Wednesday that the agency had fallen short of its last month's target of P43.1 billion by 31 percent. This meant that revenues for August amounted to only P29.77 billion.

Salceda said in another statement yesterday that BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno invited him to breakfast yesterday to claim that the "actual figure is not P29.77 billion but a little over P40 billion versus the P43.11 billion goal."

"That is P10 billion more coming in the dying seconds of the month (August)," Salceda said. "In front of me, he (Parayno) admonished his staff over the blunder."

Salceda, the resident economist of the House, said he accepted Parayno's explanation on the "honest mistake."

"For as long as the cash is there, then we have no problem with that," Salceda said.

But still, Salceda raised questions in his statement about the BIR's mistake.

"The country cannot afford a repetition of this sorry event as, aside from feeding Congress garbage as empirical basis for making tax policy, it does not speak well of the quality of the information system at the BIR," he said.

Salceda recalled that when Parayno submitted the BIR report to the ways and means committee three days ago, the BIR chief explained that his report was "prepared at 10 a.m. Aug. 30, 2004 and based on data as of Aug. 27."

Salceda asked that "if it (BIR's original report) was that tentative," then how come it even compared the collection last month with that of August 2003 and added the amount to the January to July 2004 figures to indicate the BIR collection for the first eight months of the year?

When Parayno appeared personally before the committee the next day on Sept. 1, the BIR commissioner did "not even bother to rectify such error that now appears terribly egregious by their own account," he said.

Salceda said that during his breakfast with Parayno yesterday, the BIR chief "laboriously explained the nature of the magical P10 billion in the last one to four days of the month of August."

He said that based on Parayno's explanation, the latest P10 billion collection came from "late regional reporting (that should have already been long cured by a mere e-mail system) and usual month-end-rush of payments to beat deadlines."

"During the breakfast, I gently suggested to the BIR commissioner to be more careful in his official submissions to Congress since sound policy-making can only be based on timely and correct information," the congressman said.

"Moreover, in this period of fiscal crisis, information on BIR collections is of paramount interest to the public, particularly to our creditors and investors, since (BIR collections) compose 82 percent of our tax revenues," Salceda said.

In Cebu City, US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone Jr. yesterday lauded President Macapagal-Arroyo for addressing the country's fiscal crisis.

"Not only President Arroyo identified the need for actions now but also your congressional leaders. Senate leaders have said 'we've got to pull together, we've got to make a sacrifice, we got to share the pain," Ricciardone said, recalling some of the statements made by the legislators.

Ricciardone said the US assistant secretary for economic and business affairs was in the country recently "to show the American support for you and encouragement as you face these hard decisions."

"We have a certain amount of economic support programs like the friendly care program, programs to support good governance, economic affairs. We also have our millennium challenge, an initiative to encourage governments around the world to do these hard things: improve governance, meaning anti-corruption," he said.

He gave unsolicited advise to the government—to invest in people.

"Investing in health care, education and doing these things such as liberalizing the economy, are major points. Opening the economy to foreign and domestic investments and training your people to be productive workers (are) also another," he added. *With reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila and Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Hospitals slam doors on 'A' cases

From page A1

pain reliever). I could not bear the pain in my hips. I did not have an abortion!" she told them.

Her sister asked the doctors if they could give Ellen first aid. They said no.

The two women took a taxi to another government hospital, bigger than the first. After an internal examination, the doctors said that Ellen had probably had an abortion and that it was futile for her to deny it.

Again she explained that she had taken nothing but the pain reliever.

As in the first hospital, the doctors did not believe her. They also told her the hospital had no equipment, no oxygen. They sent her away and made her sign a waiver.

"If you won't admit to having an abortion, we won't accept you here," they shouted. "Do you want to die?"

Ellen and her sister took yet another taxi to yet another public hospital, where yet another internal examination was performed by yet other doctors who shouted at her.

They told her they could not admit her because their limited beds were only for emergency cases.

"Why, isn't my sister an emergency case?" Ellen's sister said.

For the third time in a span of a few hours, Ellen was told she had to sign a waiver and leave.

By then the large towel she had put between her legs to absorb the blood was close to dripping.

She was dizzy, the clawing pain in her stomach was getting unbearable, and there was ringing in her ears.

Take 4

At the fourth hospital—a tertiary hospital in Manila, like the two others—Ellen endured more of the same. But she refused to sign a waiver this time.

"Doc, may I just rest here for a while?" she asked the more sympathetic of the two doctors, a male, who had examined her.

They told her to sit on a bench inside the ER and to sign the waiver when she could walk.

It was now almost 5 a.m.

"I'm so sleepy," Ellen told her sister. She put her head on her sister's shoulder—and blacked out.

Panicked, her sister cried for help. But the doctors said Ellen was just pretending.

Ellen regained consciousness but could barely open her eyes. She struggled against the darkness, thinking how easy it would be to let go and not feel any more pain.

And then she thought of her three daughters. Who will take care of them if she dies?

She heard a woman yell at her: "Walk! You're tiring us!"

"Really, I can't do it," she mumbled.

They dragged her to the examination table, where she finally received emergency medical treatment.

D&C

Hours later, Ellen underwent a D&C (dilation and curettage, where the cervix is dilated and the uterus is scraped).

She begged the doctors performing the procedure to go slowly and spare her some of the pain.

"You'll have to bear it. You did this to yourself," retorted a doctor who kept on insisting that she had had an abortion.

Four days later, feeling strong enough to walk, she fled the hospital without paying the bill of P1,700.

"That's just payback," Ellen, now 26, told the INQUIRER in an interview last month at her mother's shack in a Pasay City slum. It had been two years after her harrowing experience.

Ellen said the abortion was not intentional, but she intimated that she was not too happy with her husband—the father of two of her three daughters—when she had the baby.

She said she had ignored the bleeding at first because it was slight, like menstruation. Several times, she said, she took Hemostan 500, tablets used to stem hemorrhage.

But on that fateful night, she became scared and decided that she had to go to a hospital.

Recently, one of Ellen's neighbors—a married woman who worked as a sales clerk—had a spontaneous abortion and lost her first baby. The woman recalled how she was passed from one hospital to another.

"I told her our experience was similar," Ellen said.

Wanted baby

Myra, a resident of the same slum and a mother of two, had a spontaneous abortion in March.

She fainted and crumpled to the ground when toughies ganged up on her husband, a garbage truck driver. She was then two months pregnant with a baby they had both wanted.

Myra, 23, went to a nearby hospital, the same one that Ellen had first gone to.

She asked a doctor to give her something to save her baby, but the latter, a woman, told her after an internal examination that it was too late, the baby was "already crushed."

She was told that she had to produce P5,000 for a D&C. She had only P1,000.

Shouting, the doctor accused Myra of aborting her pregnancy. When she began to explain what had happened, the doctor brushed her off.

"She was shouting at me in English. She said I could not even answer a very simple question," Myra recounted to the INQUIRER in an interview, also last month, at the Apelo Women's Health Association clinic in Pasay.

Convinced that she would get the same treatment in other public hospitals, Myra went home.

She now had to get rid of the dead fetus in her womb. She was forced to do what a woman who wanted to induce an abortion would do.

Even 'sioktong'

Myra went to a *hilot* (midwife) who kneaded her belly thrice daily for three days, at P200 a day.

Later, a close friend who also had a spontaneous abortion referred her to a *manggagamot* (traditional healer) in Calamba, Laguna. She was told to drink two concoctions: one of boiled *ampalaya* (bitter melon) leaves and the other of *makabuhay* roots.

She tried to religiously drink the prescribed concoctions, but she had to give up because they were too bitter to the taste.

Myra turned to *sioktong* (a local wine usually taken to relieve menstrual pain), which she bought at P21 a bottle in a nearby grocery. She used a soft drink as a chaser.

"By noon, I would be drunk," she recalled.

Myra then took Cytotec, an antiulcer pill used by Filipino women to induce abortion. She took four of the pills that a neighbor offered to her at P100 each.

She did not ask where her neighbor got the pills, which have been banned by the Department of Health.

The neighbor said there were genuine and fake Cytotec pills in the market, but assured her that the ones she had bought were authentic.

In pain

By then Myra was in great pain. Most of the time she lay motionless in bed.

"My belly was so painful," she said. "It was throbbing. I was crying. My whole body was shaking with fear. I kept praying that my baby would cooperate because I had no money for a hospital stay."

The bleeding got worse by the day. When she peed, bits of flesh would swoosh out with the blood.

She told her husband about the bits of flesh, and he said with regret that she should have saved them in a bottle for burial.

Myra thought she would die. She worried about what might happen to her two girls.

One day she finally saw what the *manggagamot* had told her to watch for: a lizard-like form.

She had been told that if it did not come out, she would die.

Ultimately the bleeding stopped. When Myra visited a clinic for a checkup, she was told that her body was able to rid itself of the dead fetus.

Five months after the experience, Myra wistfully talked about her and her husband's desire to have that baby.

But she's not taking any chances at the moment; she's been on the pill for two months now. *Next: Bias among health care workers*

FAST FACTS

- 400,000 induced abortions nationwide annually
- 14 percent of Metro Manila women have had an abortion
- 1 in 5 ends up in hospital because of complications like excessive bleeding, vaginal infection, nervous breakdown
- Most are married, between 25 and 34, and cannot afford to raise another child, usually after the fourth child
- Abortion 1 of top 3 causes of admission in public hospitals
- 12 percent of all pregnancy-related deaths related to abortion
- First choice of method: drugs. Most popular: Cytotec, an anti-ulcer drug taken orally but sometimes inserted into the vagina for stronger effect
- Drugs believed to result in "cleaner" abortions
- Penalty for abortion: jail term ranging from six months to 20 years

Sources: Dr. Corazon Raymundo, Dr. Junice Melgar, data from Department of Health and from EngenderHealth, Revised Penal Code

MYRA (back to camera) is interviewed by Gina Conde of the Apelo Women's Health Association clinic in Pasay City where she goes for a checkup. PDI PHOTO/STELLA GONZALES

Abuse not unusual for 'A' patients

By Stella O. Gonzales

THE EXPERIENCE of Ellen and Myra is not unusual; it is the norm, as many local studies show.

Dr. Debbie Capuchino of the Department of Health's Family Health Division has heard of many such cases. There were even times, she said, when hospital staff reported the patient to the police.

In at least one case, she said, the hospital branded the patient by putting a tag—"induced abortion"—on her bed, Capuchino said.

Dr. Cynthia Garcia, who once worked with the nongovernment organization EngenderHealth, said it was not unusual for doctors, nurses or midwives to curse post-abortion women in front of other patients.

"It's as if other people have to know that the woman has undergone an abortion," she said.

There have been instances when the patient was asked to pay even when the hospital's services are free.

Likhaan, an NGO that is doing a study on women's abortion experiences, documented a case wherein a hospital worker threatened to list the patient's name on the police blotter if she would not admit to having an induced abortion.

The patient made the admission and was treated right away, said Dr. Junice Melgar, Likhaan executive director. But only after she was told: "Don't you know that at this moment your soul is burning in hell?"

Melgar said some health care workers defended their conduct thus: to teach the women a lesson so they won't induce an abortion again.

She quoted some doctors as saying that they needed to know whether the abortion was induced because if so, there was a bigger chance of infection.

But even a spontaneous abortion can result in an infection, so there should be no difference in treatment, Melgar noted.

Whether the abortion was spontaneous or induced might be useful information, but doctors and nurses can get this information without resorting to "third-degree," she said, adding:

"The doctors are acting like judges. They say they're doing it '*para madala yung babae* (so she won't do it again).'"

According to Dr. Corazon Raymundo of the University of the Philippines' Population Institute, post-abortion women are usually already in a life-threatening situation when they decide to go to a hospital.

"Still they are not treated well *kasi makasalanang babae sila* (because they're considered sinners)," Raymundo said.

"But the abortion has been done, so what do the doctors think they can still achieve?

"If they don't want to give these women special attention, then at least give them the kind of attention they would give to other people who come to the hospital with health problems.

"What happened to the Hippocratic Oath our medical doctors have sworn to uphold?"

Garcia agreed: "Doctors are not supposed to be moralists.

"The woman has already committed the 'sin.' How do you now help somebody who is having a complication? That should be the concern of the health care system. Not how she got the health problem, but how to help someone with that health problem."

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SAFETY CONCERNS

Huge billboards banned on Metro's major roads

By Margaux C. Ortiz

NO MORE huge billboards on Metro Manila's major and secondary roads.

Citing the dangers these outdoor ads posed on motorists and pedestrians, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority yesterday passed a resolution warning interested parties from installing commercial signs like billboards and streamers in thoroughfares, center islands and street rights-of-way perceived as traffic obstructions.

Violators would face the corresponding penalties, the MMDA added.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the Metro Manila Council resolution also prescribed the guidelines on the installation and display of billboards and advertising signs along major and secondary thoroughfares within Metro Manila.

In the resolution, the MMDA noted that billboards and advertising signs are "indiscriminately posted in public areas and distract the attention of motorists, thus causing road accidents and traffic."

"It is unlawful for any person, private and public corporations, advertising and promotion companies, movie producers, professionals and service contractors to post, install, display any kind or form of billboards, signs, posters and other visual clutter in any part of the roads, sidewalks, center islands, posts, trees and open spaces," the resolution read.

It also specified that the installation, operation and maintenance of lighted advertising panels endorsing individuals, private organizations and public corporations shall not be allowed on sidewalks, pedestrian overpasses, flyovers, interchanges, traffic signages, communication posts, LRT and MRT terminals, and waiting sheds.

The resolution especially prohibited the installation of dazzling and neon signs; advertisement of cigarettes, tobacco, liquor and prohibited drugs; exhibitions of sexuality and nudity offensive to public morals; and advertisements of sanitary products, birth control devices, underwear and other sensitive products.

Fernando said the MMDA would issue clearances on the installation of signs along major thoroughfares and national roads.

Local government units, on the other hand, would be in charge of local roads.

Violators face a fine of P100 per square foot of the surface space of the advertisement.

A surcharge of 25 percent of the penalty shall be added for failure to pay the fine within seven days. The resolution specified that violators would be fined P20,000 for the second offense.

SENATOR Francis Pangilinan and wife, actress-singer Sharon.

Sharon, Kiko welcome Mariel Daniella Sophia

By Christine O. Avendano

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta yesterday gave birth to a baby girl, her second child by husband Majority Leader Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

Cuneta delivered her child via caesarian section at the Asian Hospital in Alabang, Muntinlupa, at about 6:30 a.m.

According to Pangilinan, their new baby would be named Mariel Daniella Sophia or Miel for short.

Miel weighed 8.2 pounds and is 51 centimeters long, according to the proud father.

"We are all extremely happy. Mother and daughter are doing well," Pangilinan said in a text message.

Pangilinan said both he and Cuneta were "teary eyed in the operating room when we heard her (Miel) first cry out."

"Her Ate Frankie is super excited and even sang to her when she was brought to the room," the senator also said, referring to his and Cuneta's other daughter, Frankie, now 3 years old.

Cuneta has another daughter, Kristina Cassandra or KC, from her previous marriage to actor Gabby Concepcion.

Pangilinan said Cuneta's doctors have disallowed any visitors until the movie actress and singer has fully recovered.

Due to the birth of their child, Pangilinan skipped a hearing called by the Senate committee on constitutional amendments yesterday, according to committee chair Sen. Richard Gordon.

It was Gordon who announced the good news to everyone present at the hearing.

Mayors offer own austerity measures

By Nancy C. Carvajal

METRO Manila's 17 mayors are backing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's move to implement austerity measures to cope with the fiscal crisis, according to Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad.

Trinidad is the spokesperson of the Metro Manila Mayors League for the cities of Manila, Pasay, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig, Quezon, Caloocan, Malabon, Valenzuela, Las Piñas, Makati, Muntinlupa and Parañaque, and the municipalities of San Juan, Taguig, Navotas and Pateros.

Measures to be jointly implemented by the local governments include energy conservation and the limiting of travel and overtime services of employees and officials.

All air conditioning units would be shut off at the close of office hours at 5 p.m. as part of the energy conservation measures, Trinidad said, adding that seminars, conferences and training programs previously paid for by the local government would no longer be allowed.

But each mayor could adopt certain measures inherently required in their respective cities and municipalities.

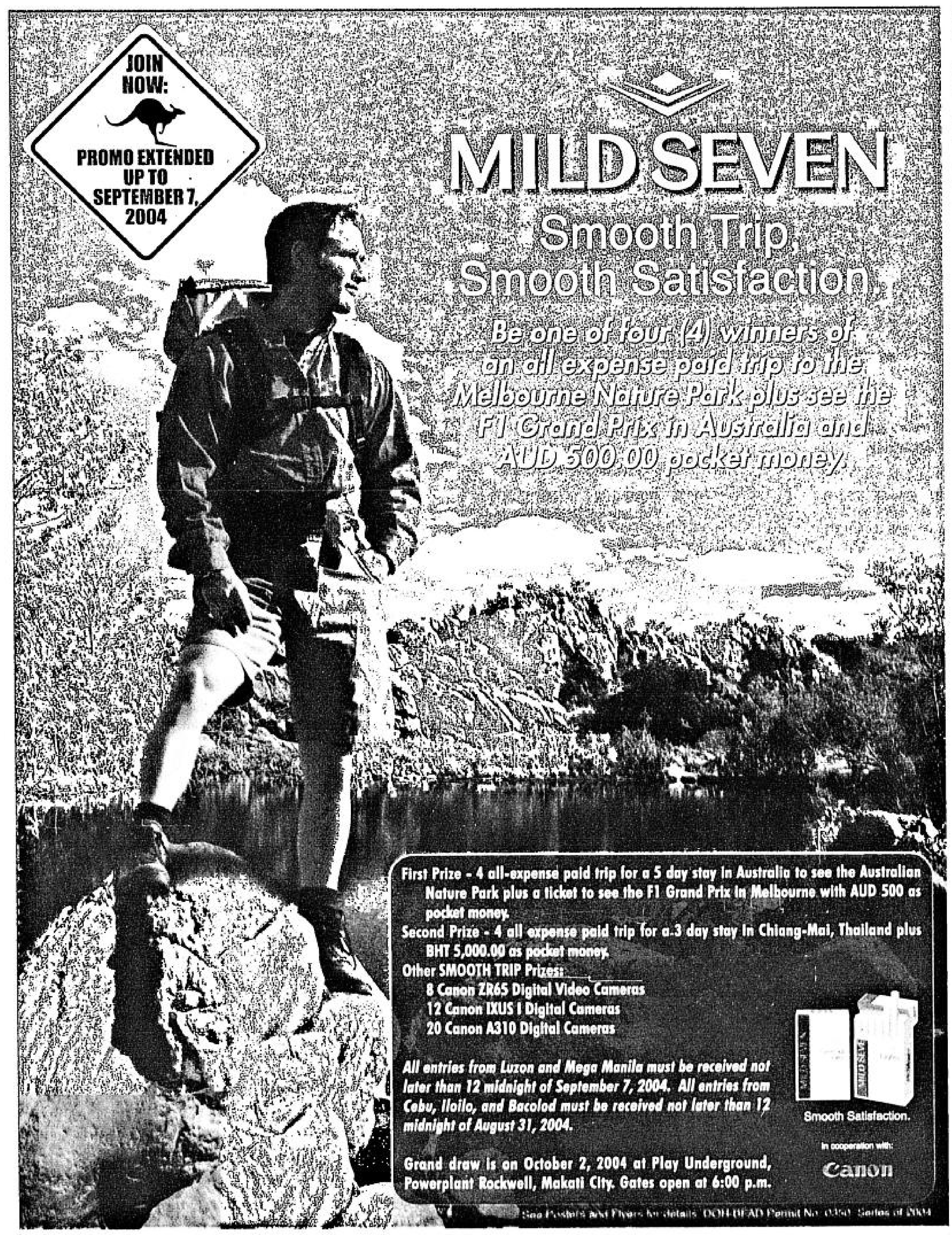
Trinidad said one of the measures he would introduce is the one weekday off, and making Saturday or Sunday a working day so those who have to do business at City Hall can do so on those days.

" This will also be an opportunity to increase our collections," he said.

Las Piñas Mayor Imelda Aguilar, on the other hand, said gasoline subsidies for their vehicles would only be limited to 50 liters a week, and refueling should only be done during weekdays. She also encouraged the recycling of office supplies.

Makati City Information and Community Relations Division head Joselito Salgado said they were ready to do their share and would review some aspects of their expenditures. But he stressed that they would not give up their projects like the Olympic-sized swimming pool in West Rembo and the new Makati Police Headquarters in the heart of the Central Business District.

"These projects were started and funded before the fiscal crisis," Salgado said. "It is not practical if we stop these projects for our Makati constituents." *With Margaux C. Ortiz*



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All entries from Luzon and Mega Manila must be received not later than 12 midnight of September 7, 2004. All entries from Cebu, Iloilo, and Bacolod must be received not later than 12 midnight of August 31, 2004.

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INQBOX
Question of the Week

With over 70 provincial journalists killed in the Philippines since 1986, what do you think should be done to finally end the killings?

Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wil each receiv a Guyito stuffd toy! Ü*

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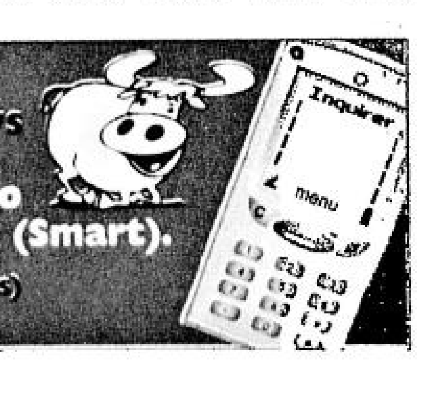

Probe ordered on QC prison shabu session

By Tina G. Santos

POLICE authorities yesterday ordered an investigation into the reported proliferation of illegal drugs inside the Quezon City Jail, despite the presence of jail guards who were supposed to implement tight measures to prevent its entry.

Three inmates were caught engaging in a shabu session yesterday inside their detention cell.

The suspects, who were earlier detained as suspected drug traffickers, were identified as Hasmang Mali, 25; Muhammad Ali Asdali, 42; and his son, Nelson Asdali, 26.

According to Supt. Cesar Binag, commander of the Central Police District-Kamuning Station, where the inmates were turned over, the discovery of the inmates' illegal activities came after jail guards had conducted a regular inspection of the cell block.

Binag said the prison guards noticed the suspects acting suspiciously inside the Dorm 7 Annex Building at the detention compound.

When guards accosted the three, they found that they were sniffing metamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu.

Also found in the inmates' possession were drug paraphernalia and at least 14 sachets of shabu.

Binag claimed it was the biggest haul so far in the detention center.

"Because of the number of drug sachets seized from the suspects, it could be possible that the suspects were also selling drugs to their fellow inmates," a police investigator said.

Binag said they were still conducting an investigation to determine if there were lapses in the security measures implemented by jail authorities.

"I think there should be a review of the policies to prevent drugs and other illegal items from entering the jail compound," he added.

However, he surmised that the illegal drugs were most likely smuggled inside the detention center in food packages brought in by friends or relatives visiting the inmates.

Binag added that they could not yet say whether or not prison guards could be held liable for the incident.

It would also be difficult to determine when the illegal drugs were slipped in, he said.

Gun goes off, kills veteran cop

By Leila B. Salaverria

HOMICIDE investigators in Manila never thought they would be investigating the death of one of their own.

But they did just that Wednesday when SPO3 Solomon Bataller died after his service pistol fell and went off accidentally.

The incident happened in front of his 10-year-old son, who was unharmed.

The 49-year-old Bataller, a policeman for 24 years who had several awards to his name for being a veteran crime investigator, was declared dead on arrival at the Ospital ng Sampaloc.

He suffered two gunshot wounds.

Investigator SPO2 Diomedes Labarda said in his report that Bataller was cleaning his 9 mm pistol inside his house on Felina Street, Sampaloc, Wednesday afternoon when the accident took place.

Bataller was watching television with his son, when the pistol slipped from his hands and fell on the floor, police said.

Twice shot

The gun reportedly went off twice, hitting him in the chin and in the chest.

His son then called for help.

Members of the Western Police District said Battaler was a great loss to the police force and his death was a shock to most of them.

"Hindi namin akalain na iimbestigahan namin ang pagkamatay ng kasamahan namin (We never thought we would be investigating a colleague's death)," said SPO2 Edison Bertoldo, who worked in the morning shift with Bataller.

Colleagues told the INQUIRER that Bataller used to be in the Marines before he joined the police force.

In his stint as a policeman, Bataller worked as an investigator and was named three times as the best investigator of the year. He was also a director of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, Inc.

WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod said that since Bataller died while still in active service, his family would be receiving full death benefits for members of the Philippine National Police.

METROBRIEFS

Escapee gives up

THE DRUG suspect who escaped while being escorted to court on Monday surrendered to authorities yesterday morning. This was a huge relief for Mandaluyong warden Supt. Abraham Abella, who was given a week to find escaped suspect Maurillo Marcelo. SPO4 Edmund Espiritu negotiated for Marcelo's surrender, according to Insp. Godofredo Velasco, Kalentong precinct commander. According to Abella, Marcelo had told his wife, Susan, that he wanted to escape to raise bail money for him and his family. Susan and one of their daughters are also in jail on drug charges.

Luige A. del Puerto

Fire displaces 100 families

TWO PEOPLE were hurt, while some 100 families were left homeless after a fire hit a densely populated community along Congressional Avenue Extension in Sitio Bacood, Barangay Pasong Tamo, in Quezon City yesterday afternoon. One of the victims, Rodeline De Mesa, 27, suffered a cut in her foot while fleeing her burning house. Fire investigators said the blaze started at 2:27 p.m. and was put under control an hour later. Arson investigators have yet to determine the cause of the blaze. About 70 houses were destroyed in the incident.

Tina G. Santos

Dirtiest barangay named

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority yesterday identified the dirtiest barangays in the metropolis as part of its "Cleanest and Dirtiest Barangay Contest." The dirty barangays were selected on the basis of "garbage sightings" from Oct. 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. Pasay City's Barangay 145 Zone 16 was named the dirtiest, followed by Quezon City's Barangay Sto. Domingo, Navotas' Barangay North Bay Boulevard (South), Caloocan City's Barangay 38, Zone 4, Manila's Barangay 101 Zone 8, Valenzuela City's Barangay Gen. T. De Leon, Malabon's Barangay Potrero, Makati City's Guadalupe Nuevo, Mandaluyong City's Barangay Plain View, Pateros' Barangay Sta. Ana, and Parañaque City's Barangay Tambo. The MMDA said the cities of Pasig, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and the municipality of San Juan did not have any barangays falling under the "dirtiest category."

Margaux C. Ortiz

Aguilar orders cost cutting

LAS PIÑAS Mayor Imelda Aguilar has ordered all city officials and employees to implement cost cutting and energy saving measures to help ease economic difficulties facing the government.

She limited the gasoline allocation of city vehicles to 50 liters per week and prohibited their use for family or personal outings.

Employees were told to limit the use of air conditioning.

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As a result, there will be a 15-hour water service interruption from 9 p.m., Saturday, September 4, 2004 to 12 noon, Sunday, September 5, 2004.

The following areas will have no water:

Whole of Valenzuela, including the Fatima General Hospital, Polo General Hospital, and San Miguel Corporation;
Meycauayan Water District;
Obando Water District;
Novaliches Proper and barangays Sta. Monica, Nagkaisang Nayon, Capri, San Agustin, and Lagro in Quezon City;
Barangays Bagbaguin, Kaybiga, Deparo, and Llano in Caloocan City; and
Barangays Maysilo, Panghulo, and Santol in Malabon City.

Affected customers are advised to store water good for 15 hours. They may check with Maynilad Hotline 1626, the nearest Maynilad branch office, or their barangay chairmen for the water rationing schedule in their respective areas.

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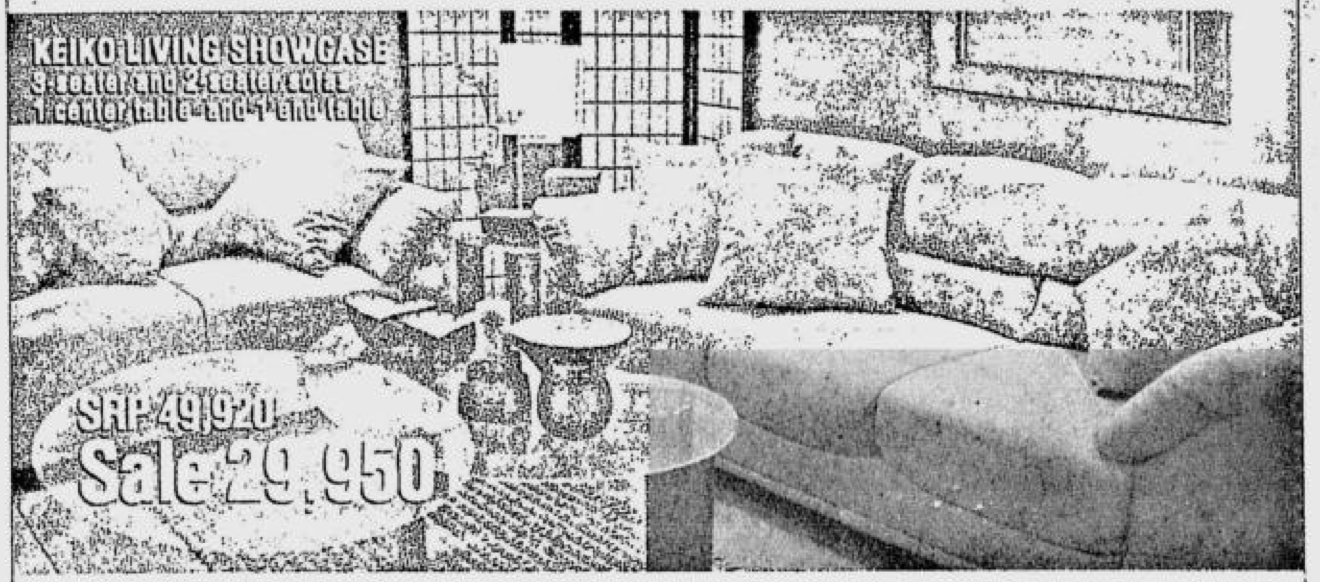

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MONDI Dining Chair, PVC Black	2,320	1,390	40%
PERANA Queen Size Bed with headboard, bedframe and 2 bedside tables	46,650	27,990	40%
NATALE 3510 Genuine Leather Loveseat	42,500	29,750	30%
ITALSOFA PARMA 3-seater Sofa, Genuine leather	56,900	39,800	30%
SILVANO COLLECTION Oblong Coffee Table	17,500	10,500	40%
TAO Queen Size Bedroom Set with headboard, bedframe and 2 bedside tables	49,998	29,998	40%
JOCO ITALIA New Onda Futon Sofa Bed	25,700	15,420	40%

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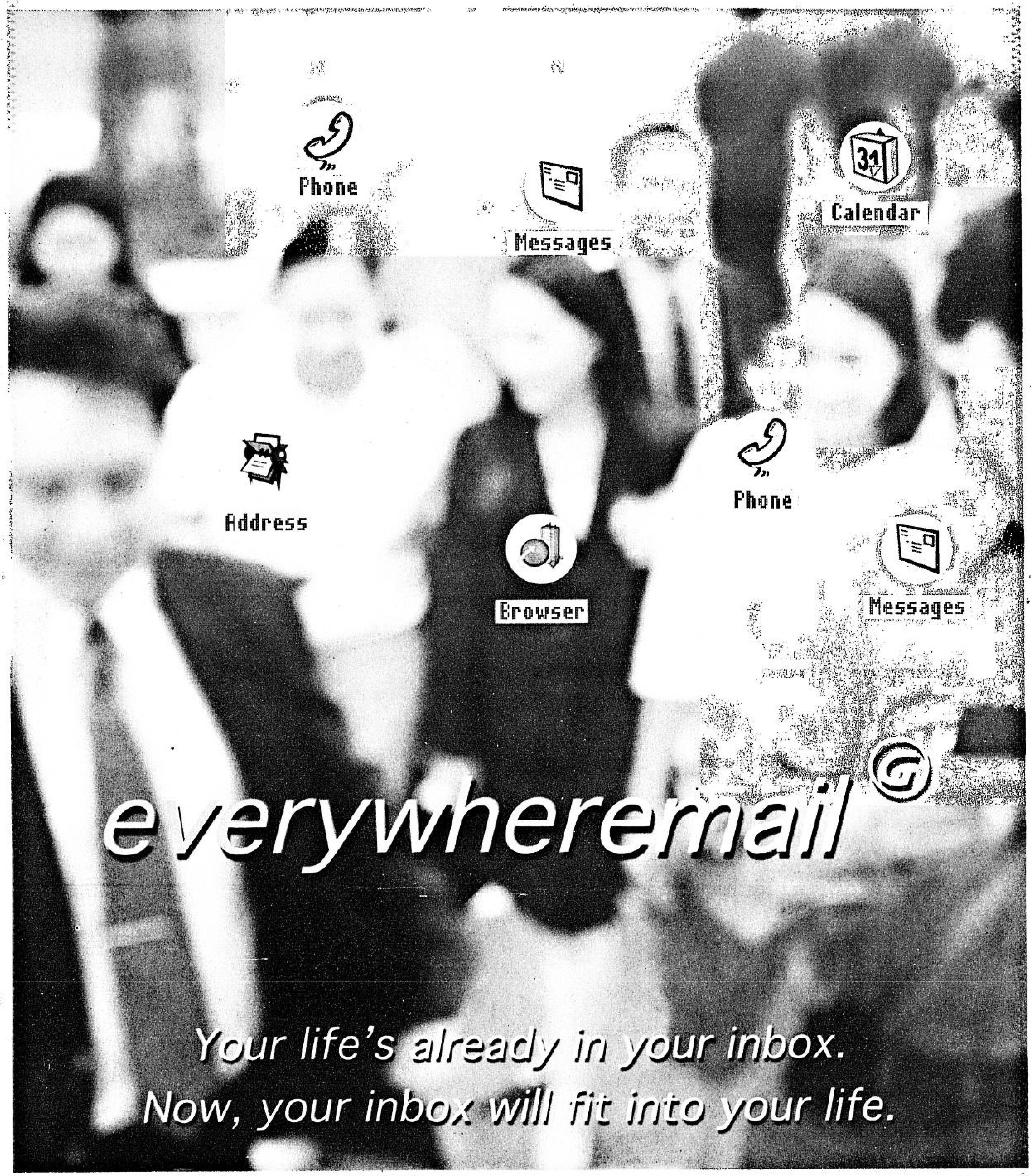
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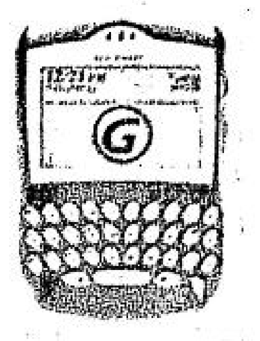
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Davao lady booters rip Negros XI; Iloilo up

GAMES TODAY (Marikina Sports Center)
8 a.m.—Negros Occidental vs Zamboanga
10 a.m.—Baguio vs Cagayan-Misamis
1 p.m.—Iligan vs Iloilo
3 p.m.—Cebu vs Negros Oriental

ROCK-SOLID Davao completed an expected sweep of its group by eliminating Negros Occidental, 4-0, even as Iloilo remained in the hunt for a semifinal berth in the PFF-SuperFerry National Women's football championship at the Marikina Sports Center.

The Ilonggas, the only side to score against Davao in a 1-3 loss Wednesday, started with all guns firing to whitewash Zamboanga, 13-0.

Showing why they are one of the favorites in the tournament for women 19 years and older, the Davaoeñas attacked the Negros goal at will to post their fourth straight win in Group A.

The loss knocked the Bacolod-based booters out of contention in the weeklong event co-organized by the Philippine Football Federation and Marikina City Football Association and backed by Marikina Mayor Marides C. Fernando and the city government.

Iloilo meets Iligan today in one of the four matches postponed from Wednesday due to heavy rain, with the winner taking second place in Group A and most likely advancing to the semifinals of the event supported by adidas, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Petron, New Pagcor, Unicef and Aboitiz Express.

Meanwhile, powerhouse National Capital Region got back on track after a surprising 1-1 draw with Negros Oriental on Wednesday, pummeling Baguio, 7-0, behind Clarissa Lazaro's hat trick.

Top striker Eliza Benitez added a brace (two goals) while Monica Santos and Betina Yang also found their marks for NCR, which temporarily regained the lead in Group A with a 3-1-0 win-draw-loss record.

Negros Oriental stayed in step with the Big City squad, composed of players from La Salle and University of the Philippines, for the group lead by beating Cagayan de Oro-Misamis Oriental, 2-0, in the day's final match. *With a report from Musong Castillo*

NEGROS Oriental striker Marriele Layumas (top) bears down on goalkeeper Jessa Abdon of Cagayan de Oro-Misamis Oriental in their hotly contested match yesterday. The Negrenses won. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Unbelievable UP Maroons shock Eagles

GAMES TOMORROW *(Philsports Arena)*
11:30 a.m.—UE vs Adamson (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—UE vs Adamson (Srs)
*4 p.m.—UP vs La Salle (Srs
6 p.m.—UP vs La Salle (Jrs)
**Live on Studio 23*

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT seemed unimaginable that this is the same University of the Philippines squad that won only once in the first round.

The UP Maroons scored another shocker with a 74-69 decision over the front-running Ateneo Eagles yesterday for their sixth straight win in the 67th UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

The Diliman dribblers, who stunned the defending champion Far Eastern Tamaraws only five days ago, posted their longest winning streak in 18 years as they surpassed the five-game roll during their 1986 championship run.

"We're not thinking about the Final Four yet. We're just enjoying the game," said UP coach Lito Vergara after foiling Ateneo's bid for a twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

In the other senior contest, FEU clinched a Final Four slot by thwarting the National University Bulldogs, 78-65, as Arwind Santos posted a double-double with 21 points and 10 rebounds

"We faced this game knowing that it's full of pressure. Every game is a must win for us. Getting into the Final Four is not just our goal. We want the No. 1 or 2 slot," said FEU coach Koy Banal.

Ateneo and FEU now share top spot at 9-3. UP, the only unbeaten team in the second round, remained in the semifinal race with a 6-6 record.

UP's Toti Almeda, who topscored with 18 points, Abby Santos and Marvin Cruz took charge in the first half as the Maroons opened a 37-26 lead.

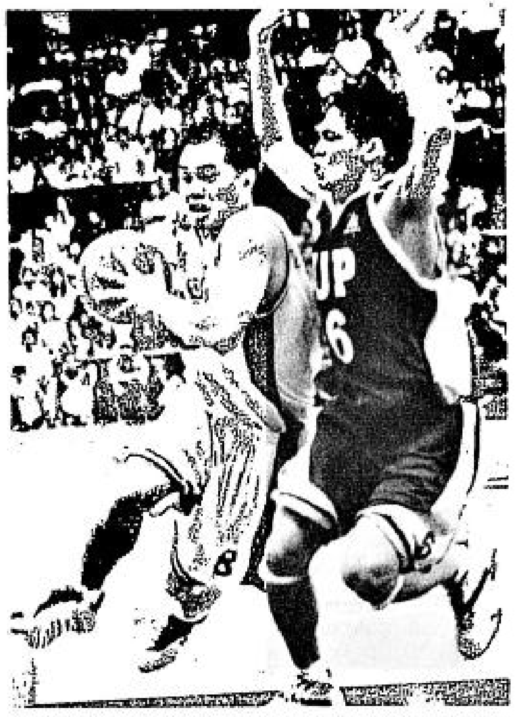
Ateneo staged a 12-2 comeback that tied the count at 38-38 in the third quarter and even wrested the lead after an LA Tenorio triple, 64-63, midway in the fourth period.

But UP quickly responded with a 10-3 run for a 73-67 edge, 1:23 remaining.

FEU opened the third quarter with nine unanswered points for a 48-35 advantage.

NU, though, remained close by midway in the fourth quarter, 61-55. But FEU charged with an 11-2 blast for a 72-57 cushion, two minutes left.

UNBELIEVABLE/ A27


BAJJIE del Rosario of Ateneo drives past Jireh Ibanez of UP. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Must-win for embattled Stags vs Knights today

STANDINGS	W	L
Perpetual	10	4
PCU	10	4
Letran	8	5
SSC	7	6
San Beda	7	7
Mapua	7	7
JRU	4	9
St. Benilde	1	12

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—JRU vs St. Benilde (Jrs)
2 p.m.—JRU vs St. Benilde (Srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs SSC (Srs)
6 p.m.—Letran vs SSC (Jrs)

THE GAME is important only for the San Sebastian Stags when they battle the Letran Knights today at the close of the NCAA basketball tournament eliminations at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Stags, runners-up last year and champions in the 2002 and 2003 seasons, must prevail in their 4 p.m. date with the defending titlist Knights to gain entry in the Final Four.

Although a loss will drop San Sebastian into a three-way tie with San Beda and Mapua at 7-7, it will be the Lions and the Cardinals who will dispute the fourth slot in a playoff because of their superior tiebreak quotients.

In the other senior game, the Jose Rizal Bombers (4-9) and St. Benilde Blazers (1-12) aim for a decent finish when they meet at 2 p.m.

Letran is already assured of a semifinal seat. A victory today will pit the Knights against Final Four second-placer Philippine Christian University, while a defeat will send them against top-seed Perpetual Help.

Perpetual Help and PCU enjoy a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals.

The Stags defeated the Knights in the first round, 72-68, in a game Letran's ace shooting guard Ronjay Enrile sat out due to a one-game suspension. *Jasmine W. Payo*

UM just keeps on rolling

DEFENDING champion University of Manila continued its winning streak with a 95-56 rout of Holy Angel University yesterday in the Naascu basketball tournament at the UM gym.

Jovit Gomez came out with another herculean effort with 29 points and 17 rebounds for the Hawks, who claimed their 12th straight win—and 65th overall—in the tournament.

Ryan Regalado, Juan Uao and Edward Vidanes also combined for 36 points against HAC, which absorbed its 13th straight loss.

"We're going for it (two-round sweep)," said UM coach Loreto Tolentino.

In the other game, New Era University subdued AMA, 86-74, to improve to 5-7.

The scores:

UM 95—Gomez 29, Regalado 17, Uao 11, Vidanes 8, Casipit 6, Delostrinos 5, Salem 5, Litonjua 4, Santiago 4, Bernados 4, San Diego 2.

HOLY ANGEL 56—Gulalas 19, David 16, Francisco 6, LAnsang 6, Ramos 5, Dantes 4, Lalic 4, Mago 2, Tungcul 2, Cuizon 2, Tonglo 4.

Quarters: 19-18, 43-32, 71-50, 95-66.

NEW ERA 86—De Guzman 30, Ramos 14, Perlas 14, Ibay 13, Naguit 5, Alastre 5, Destura 2, Antazo 2, Manalac 2.

AMA 74—Dublin 19, Ober 13, Ramos 9, Panahon 6, Sta. Maria 5, Matias 5, Villasin 4, Suarez 2, Kintanar 2, Cruz 2.

Quarters: 23-16, 48-37, 64-56, 86-74.

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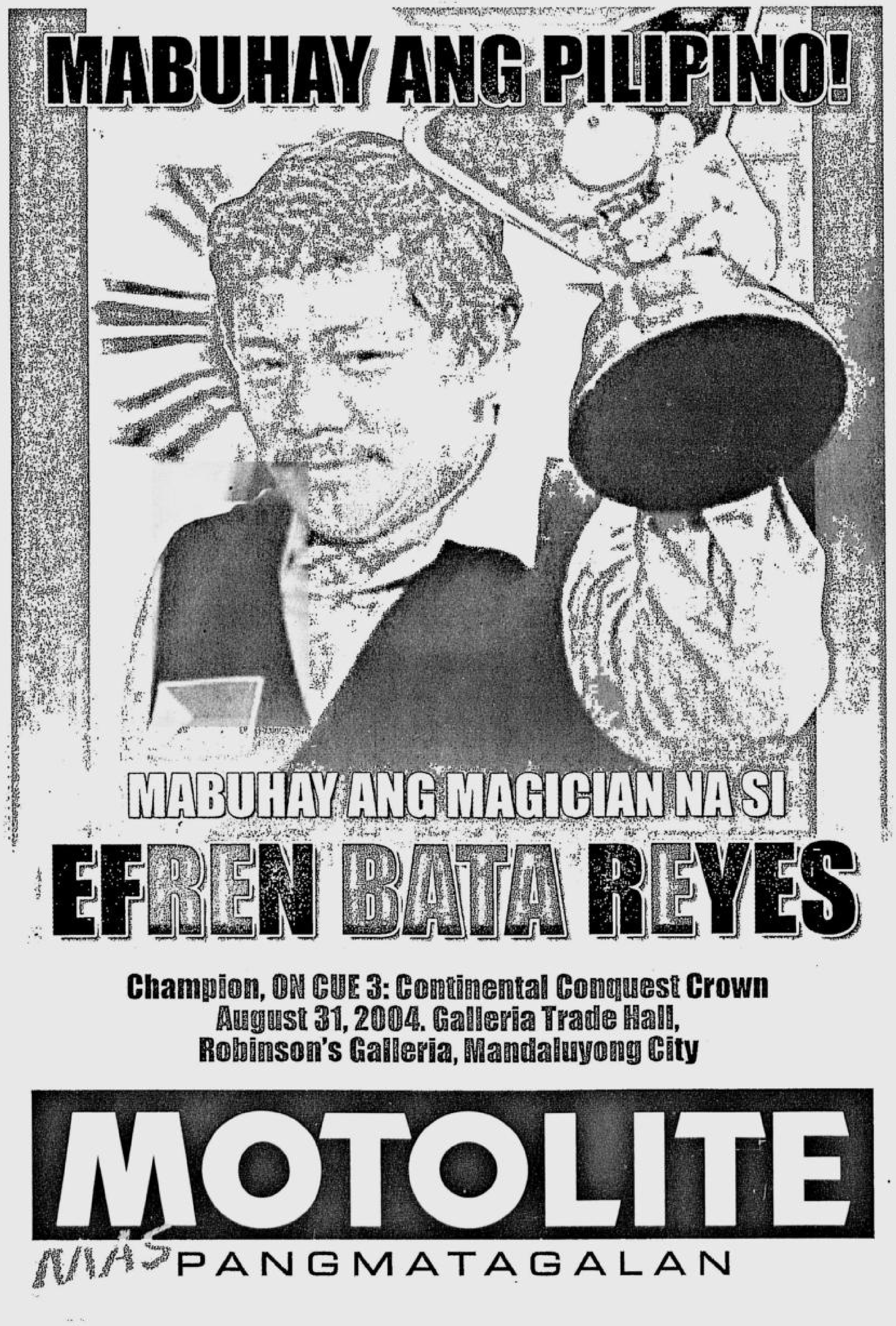

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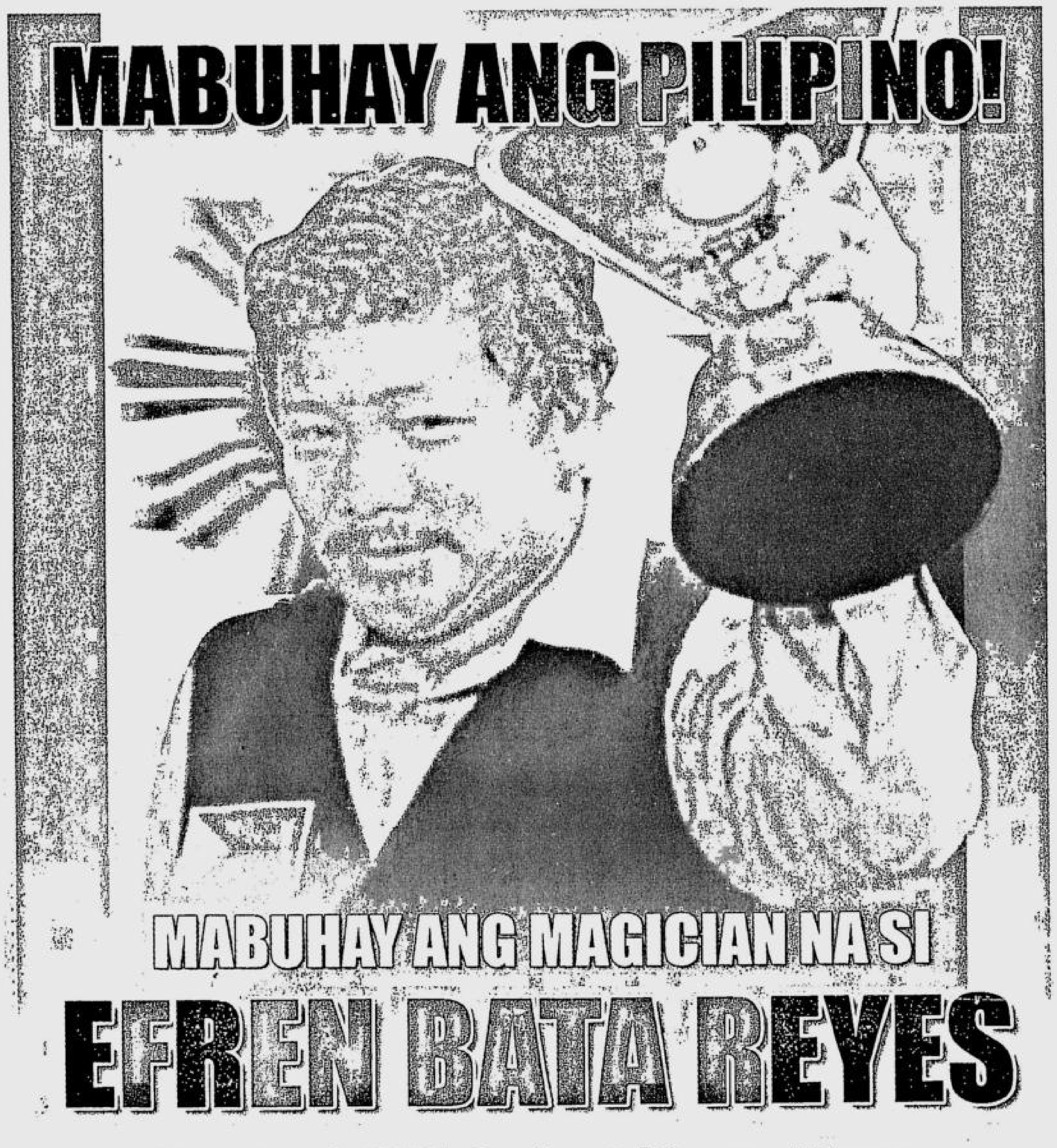

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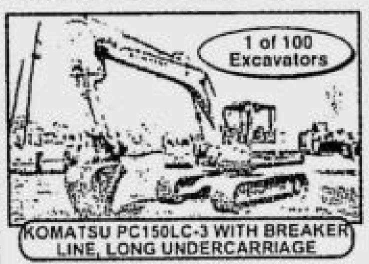
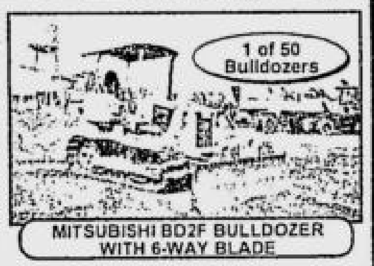
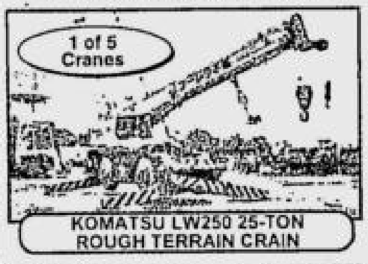


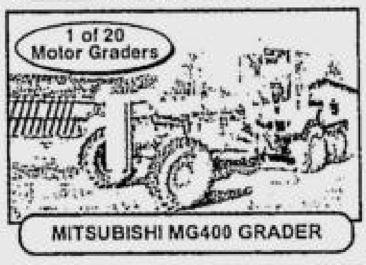
KOMATSU PC150LC-3 WITH BREAKER LINE, LONG UNDERCARRIAGE



MITSUBISHI BD2F BULLDOZER WITH 6-WAY BLADE



KOMATSU LW250 25-TON ROUGH TERRAIN CRAIN



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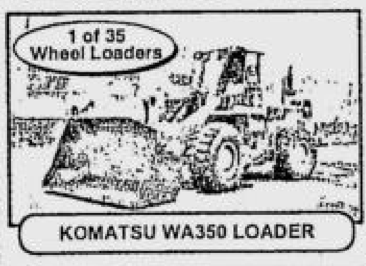
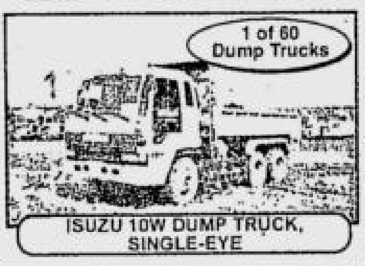
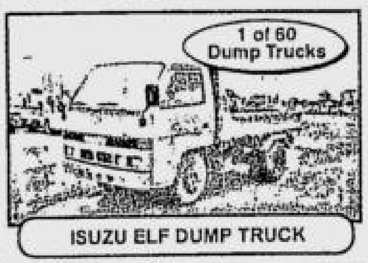


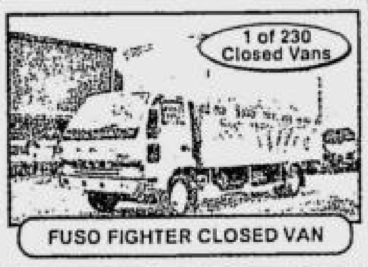
KOMATSU WA350 LOADER



ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK, SINGLE-EYE



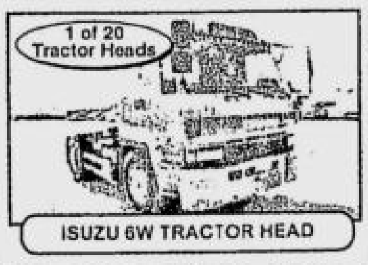
ISUZU ELF DUMP TRUCK



FUSO FIGHTER CLOSED VAN

1 of 20 Wing Vans

ISUZU FORWARD FRR WING VAN



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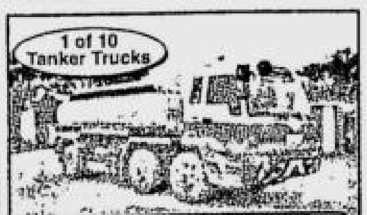

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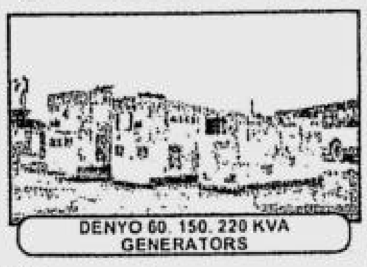

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Laguna five rebounds, blasts CdO

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Laguna Spring pulled away in the second half to rout the Cagayan de Oro Stars, 92-73, Wednesday and boost its southern campaign in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship.

Former NCAA most valuable player Ernani Epondulan shot 10 of his 16 points for the Spring Cooking Oil-backed team in the third quarter to spark the breakaway of Laguna, co-owned by NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, before a sellout crowd at the Xavier University gym here.

The 5-foot-11 Epondulan opened the quarter with a jumper and then scored back-to-back triples at the 5:16 mark as Spring pulled away from 38-34 to 54-43.

Laguna bounced back from Monday's double overtime 80-82 defeat to Tribu Sugbu for a 6-4 card and solo leadership in the North division of the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia, Accel and Molten.

The Stars absorbed their seventh loss in eight games.

Robin Mendoza's all-around game enabled Spring to lead from start to finish.

The scores:

LAGUNA 92—Epondulan 16, Corbin 11, Nicdao 11, Reyes 11, Capobres 10, Mendoza 9, Manuel 8, Garcia 5, Roda 4, Lingal 4, Kalaw 2, Buendia 0

CdO 73—Navales 16, Numeran 12, Sese 10, Royo 9, Culdora 7, Capati 5, Alcantara 5, Tagarda 4, Tolentino 3, Jimenez 2

Quarterscores: 24-9, 38-34, 67-47, 92-73

UP taekwondo fighters shine

SUGAR Catalan and Edhlie Arellano came through with emphatic victories over their respective rivals to arrange an all-UP showdown for the women's flyweight crown in the Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City yesterday.

Catalan stamped her class early to rout Aveggail Ann de Dios of Far Eastern U, 5-0, which Arellano bettered later when she outclassed Gloria Corazon Go of Davao, 6-0.

Catalan and Arellano were to dispute the crown in the 47-51 kg division at presstime. Championship matches would also be fought in six weight divisions of the event put up by top electronics firm Samsung.

In contrast, Eunice Alora of Laguna and Gerika Romero of R3 Strikers struggled before prevailing over their respective rivals and arranging a title clash in the finweight class.

Alora edged Rhoda Catarig of Las Piñas, 2-1, while Romero nipped Aprodite Brillantes of UST, 6-5.

In men's action, Angelito Ong of Army edged Hector Arellano, 1-0, then routed Jeffrey Clata of Pangasinan, 4-0, to set up a clash with Terence Boteja of Laguna for the finweight title.

In men's flyweight, Jose Enriquez of San Beda stopped Joel Corral of UST, 2-1, then pulled off a thrilling 5-4 victory over Romelle Roa of Rizal HS to advance to the final of the 54-58 kg event against Reymar Aringo of Laguna, who won via superiority over Anthony Ong of Army, 2-2, then downed Ricardo Moncada of UST, 3-1.

Unbelievable...

From page A25

The scores:

First game (Srs)

FEU 78—Santos 21, Miranda 14, Chan 13, Rizada 10, Garcia 6, Yabut 5, Mangahas 4, Cutler 3, Isip 2, Villanueva 0, Flores 0, Dela Cruz 0, Babilonia 0, Adolfo 0.

NU 65—Asoro 13, King 12, Miclat 9, Estolano 7, Mendoza 6, Malagueño 6, Garcia 6, Mollena 4, Malcontento 2, Moradas 0, D. Catamora 0, Fernandez 0, C. Catamora 0, Balijon 0.

Quarters: 23-17, 39-35, 53-47, 78-65.

Second game (Srs)

UP 74—Almeda 18, Ibañes 14, Santos 12, David 11, Cruz 7, Cervantes 5, Quebral 3, Epres 2, Ferrer 2, Robin 0.

ATENEO 69—Intal 20, Bugia 11, Tenorio 10, Del Rosario 7, Kramer 6, Membrere 6, Arao 4, Tiu 2, Escalona 2, Quimson 1, Aguilar 0, Ulchico 0,

Quarters: 16-15, 37-26, 59-56, 74-69.

JOAN BONDOC

FOOTLOOSE: Members of the Los Angeles Lakers cheering squad, including Filipinas Cheryl Aure (third from left) and Alexie Agdeppa (partly hidden at left), perform during a visit at SM Megamall yesterday. The court beauties are here to promote the NBA Madness tourney which kicks off today.

NBA Madness kicks off at SM Megamall

NBA Madness tipped off yesterday at the SM Megamall Parking Lot C in Mandaluyong City.

The event opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 8:30 p.m. until Sunday.

This year's Madness features a basketball theme park called NBA Jam Sessions, made up of basketball courts, interactive skills challenges, fun games, hot band performances, celebrity appearances and exhibits.

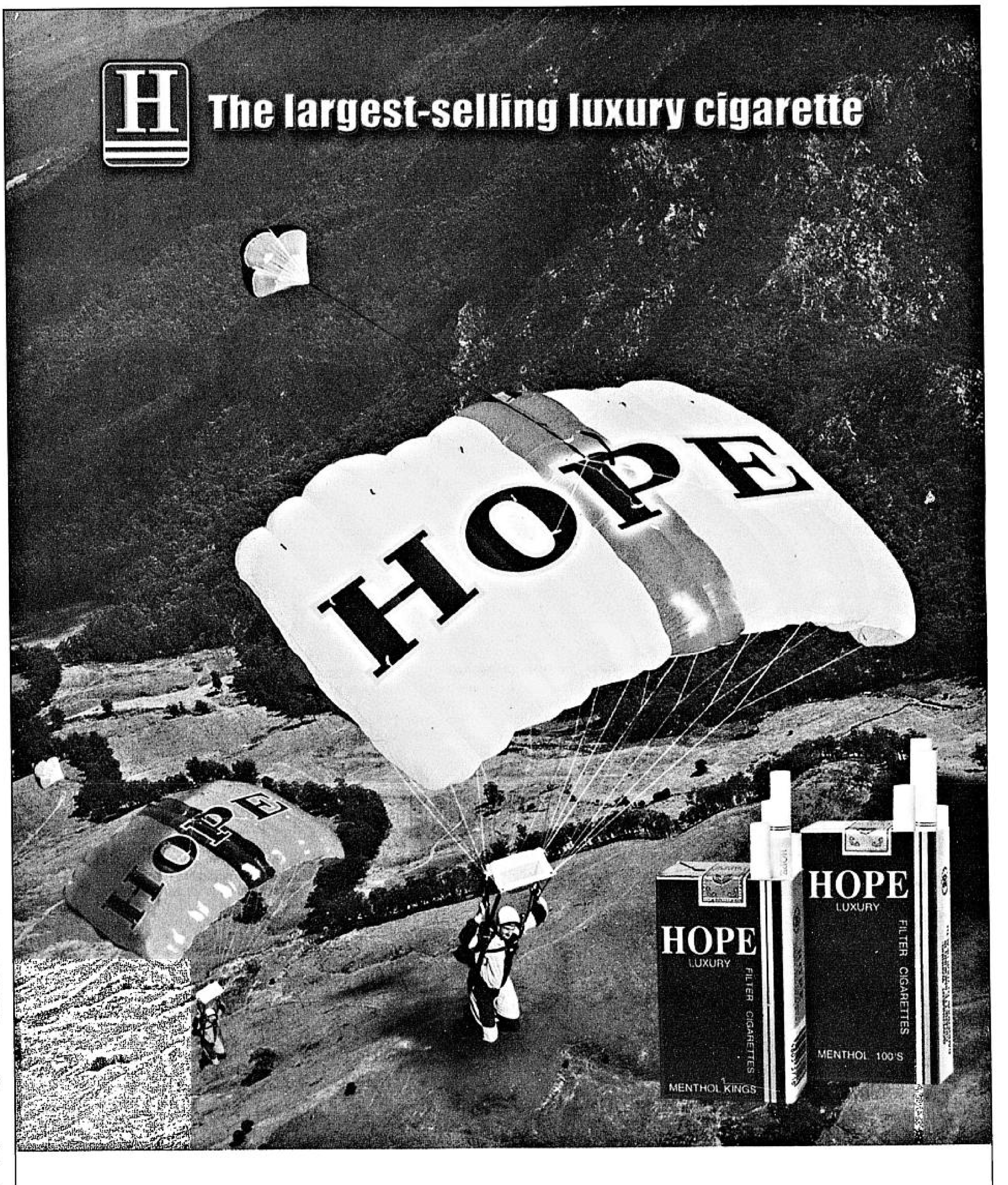
Performers are headlined by the the NBA's Laker Girls.

Displayed prominently at the Madness site is the Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy.

Madness also brings to town for the first time the Junior NBA and the Junior WNBA, presented by Growee Vitamins, whose goal is to teach 9- to 14-year-old kids basic basketball skills.

Organized by the Growee Hoops School of former PBL commissioner Charlie Favis and seven-time PBA Best Import Bobby Parks, the project's goal is to send the first Filipino player to the NBA.

Coca-Cola's Mad Skillz Competition and Globe Gentxt's NBA 3-on-3, competition, are the other attractions of the event.



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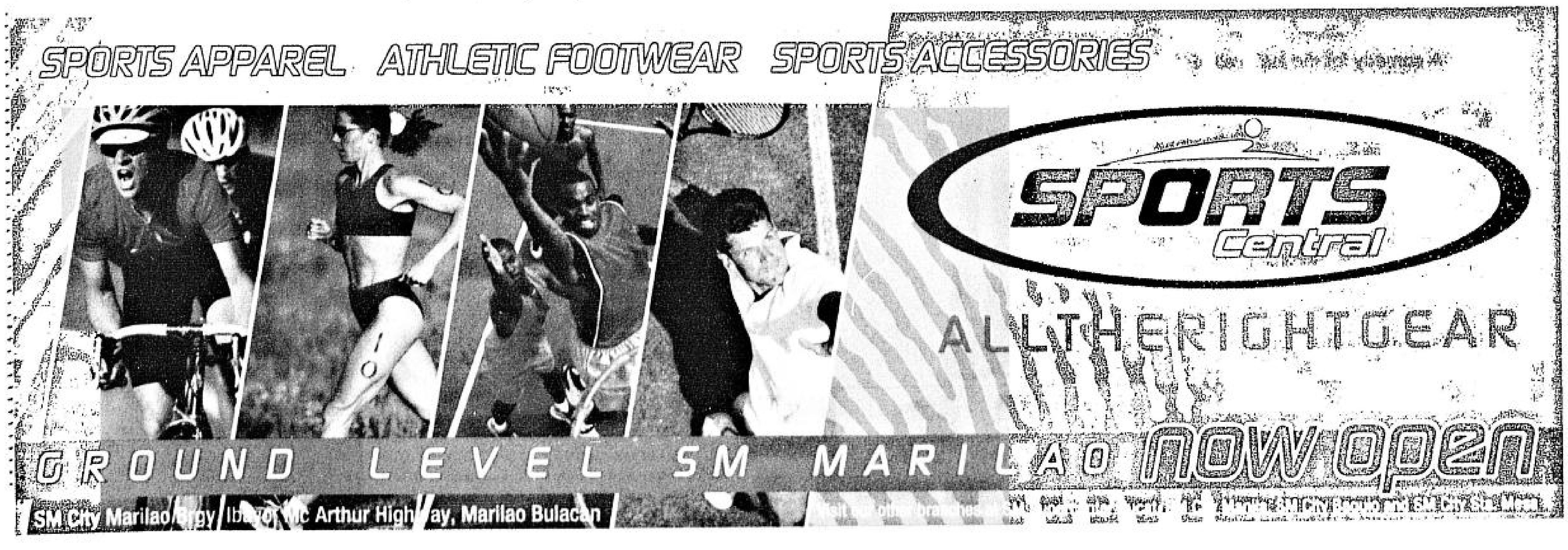

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Burlington backs RP Youth anew

IT'S ON to the 18th Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) junior men's championship for the Philippine Youth squad.

This became a certainty yesterday after Burlington socks, the RP Youth's major backer the past few years, reaffirmed its commitment to support the team in the tournament set in Bangalore, India, from Sept. 14-23.

"Our company is always ready to help for flag and country," said Pete Tan and Ruddy Tan, president and general manager, respectively, of Burlington Industries Phils. Inc., the country's leading hosiery firm.

The RP Youths earned a slot to the biennial tournament by topping the Southeast Asia Basketball Association junior men's championship held in Lucena City last April.

Problem is, only a few from that victorious squad will be available for the tournament limited to players who are 18 years and under.

Reason: The tournament coincided with the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the University Athletic Association of the Philippines, where most of the RP Youths are seeing action.

Only four, none of them a starter, are still available from the Johny Tam-mentored team which swept the Seaba tourney in Lucena. The Tans know that, of course, but they aren't really concerned about a likely lowly finish.

What they want is to honor Burlington's commitment to the nation, the players, the Basketball Association of the Philippines and, of course, the organizers of the ABC junior men's championship.

Burlington has even developed a new line of socks, Shock XT, for the RP Youths, other athletes and active people to help reach one's potential.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Onceuponatime 2. Quick Pick 3. Gifted Gal 4. Apache Warrior
Race 2—1. Native Land 2. The Magician 3. Western Legend 4. Yokozuna
Race 3—1. Mas Que Nada 2. Gliding Speed 3. Andee's Whisper 4. Pandora 5. Lovely Tara
Race 4—1. Hezabellagio 2. Half Medium 3. Born Perfect 4. Sheza Slew
Race 5—1. Reigns Supreme 2. Angie Gray 3. Batang Westside 4. Rumaragasa
Race 6—1. Tawagin Mo Na 2. Trixie Anne 3. Pasirit 4. Noble Principality 5. Quedan
Race 7—1. Al's Princess 2. Above All 3. Glory Allelujia 4. Diamond Sky
Race 8—1. Bullish View 2. Earth Angel 3. Wing Away 4. Brenda Starr
Race 9—1. Hazit Coming 2. Magic Dancer 3. Ole Ole Ole 4. Jayvie's Godfather 5. Lord of the Ring 6. Naughty

Serena turns heads with stunning outfit

WILLIAMS AP

NEW YORK—This is all you need to know about Serena Williams' concerns at the US Open:

After warming up for what would be a 6-4, 6-3 second-round victory Wednesday against Lindsay Lee-Waters, Williams approached the chair umpire with an urgent request—could someone get her purse from the locker room? She forgot to put on earrings.

Williams' health and tennis might not have been perfect over the past year, but her fashion sense is just fine, thank you.

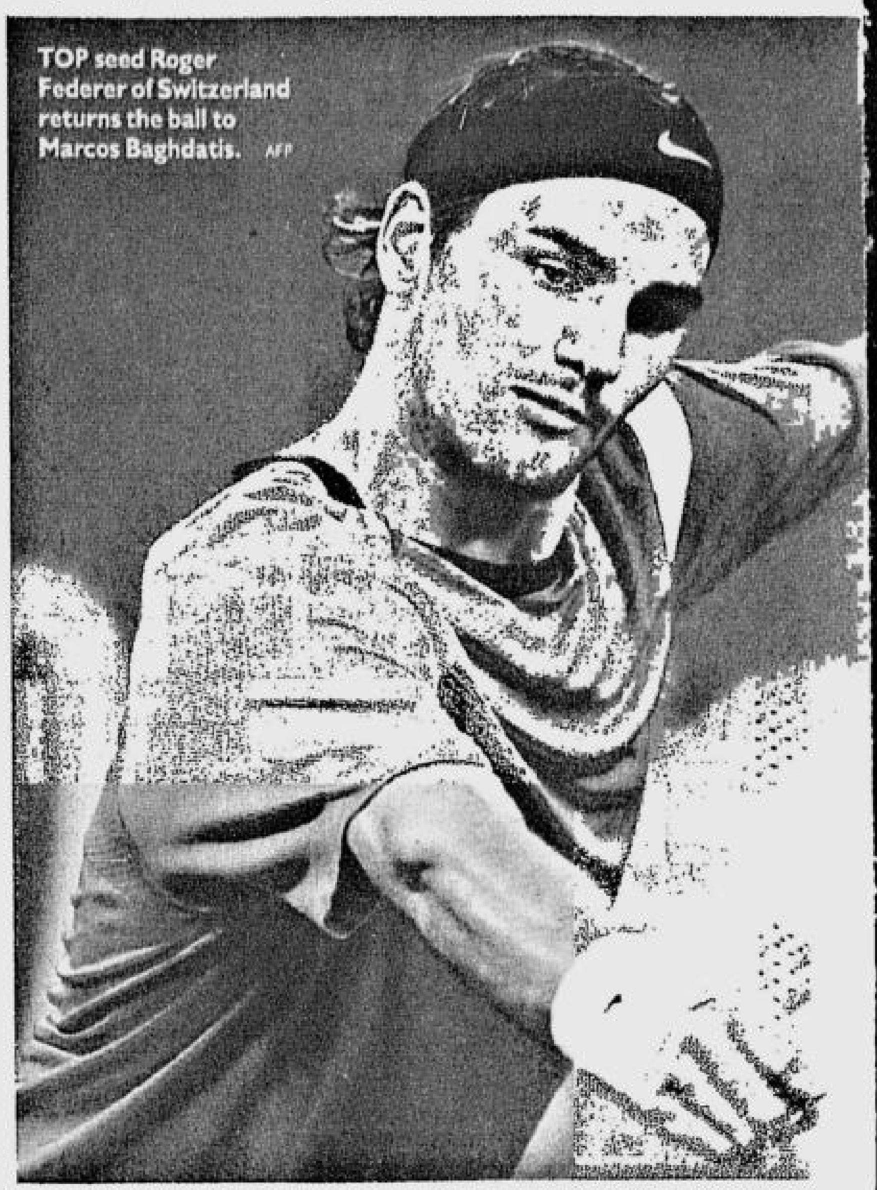
"I consider myself an entertainer," she said. "I remember always thinking of myself as a broader picture as opposed to just your normal athlete. I don't think I've ever been your normal athlete. I've always had something different going on in my life."

After rising to No. 1 and winning a self-styled Serena Slam of four straight majors, she had left knee surgery in August 2003, and hasn't been the same since. Williams missed 8 1/2 months, won her first tournament back in March—but owns zero titles since and her ranking slid to 11th.

Williams made her Open debut Monday night in a short, pleated denim skirt. On Wednesday, she wore black hot pants and a navel-ring revealing, studded tight tank top. While the stadium loudspeakers blared the 1970s song "You Sexy Thing," she warmed up in black, knee-high faux boots along with a black zip-up jacket with "SERENA" in sequins on the back—even though the temperature topped 75 degrees Fahrenheit (23.89 degrees Celsius).

Not exactly what Tennis Moms might don for their outings on public courts. Even Williams said: "If I'm slightly uncomfortable, that's OK. I'm usually able to play through it."

She added: "I represent all females out there who believe in themselves. It doesn't matter what you look like; it's all about having confidence." AP



TOP seed Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball to Marcos Baghdatis. AFP

Alonzo ready after kidney transplant

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Alonzo Mourning will try to revive his career with the New Jersey Nets after a kidney transplant but guard Jason Kidd may be sidelined until December because of a knee injury, it was announced here Wednesday.

Mourning, a seven-time All-Star center, will take part in the Nets 2004-05 training camp in a comeback bid, said Nets chief executive Rod Thorn.

"We look forward to Alonzo joining the Nets in training camp," he said. "Hopefully he will be able to resume his career and play at the high level he has in the past."

Mourning, 34, suffered renal failure last November and was forced to leave the game to undergo a kidney transplant. He had played in 12 games with the Nets, averaging 8.0 points and 2.3 rebounds.

He believes he has recovered enough to contribute to the Nets this season.

"I am feeling great and am excited about attending training camp and possibly resuming my career," he said.

According to a report in the New York Post, Kidd, 31, may not play until December following left knee surgery he underwent two months ago.

Kidd, who completed his third season with the Nets, missed 15 games with a bone bruise and sore left knee.

He averaged 15.5 points, 6.4 rebounds and 9.2 assists in 67 games last season. AFP

US OPEN

Hewitt makes pr

NEW YORK—At their peaks, Jennifer Capriati and Lleyton Hewitt attracted all sorts of attention at every tournament. At this US Open, they're almost an afterthought.

That's fine for the former No. 1 players and Grand Slam champions, especially while they're winning.

With Serena Williams' outfits, Maria Sharapova's aura, Lindsay Davenport's 18-match winning streak, and Justine Henin-Hardenne's title defense, Capriati hasn't gotten a lot of notice.

Same for Hewitt, mostly overlooked amid all the fuss about Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick and Roger Federer.

The fourth-seeded Australian Hewitt won his first-round match Wednesday, defeating Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4.

"There's definitely been matches over the last few weeks that I feel like I've played as well as I've pr

Capriati, a
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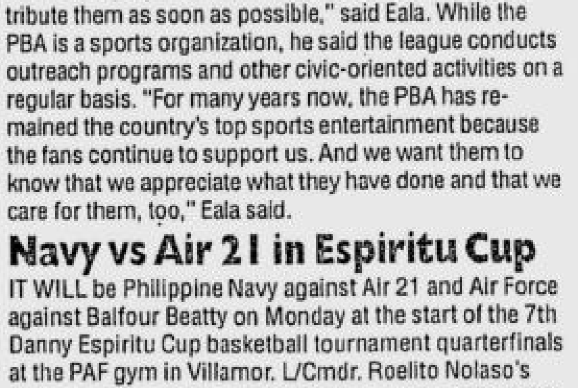
SPORTSWATCH

PBA aids CL flood victims, too

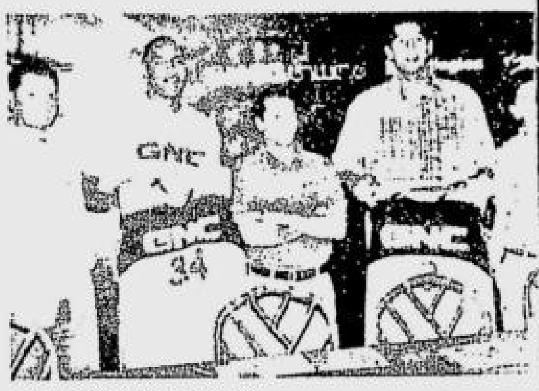
THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association is doing its share in helping the flood victims in Central Luzon. The PBA Foundation, through the initiative of league chair Buddy Encarnado, has instructed PBA commissioner Noli Eala to buy goods and other basic commodities for distribution to the flood-stricken areas, particularly in Pampanga, Tarlac and Bulacan. "The PBA family is truly saddened by the misfortunes our brothers from Central Luzon are experiencing right now," said Encarnado, whose recommendation for aid received full support from the PBA board of governors. Proceeds from the league's pre-season games scheduled in mid-September will also be donated to the flood victims. Eala said the goods will be distributed within the week or early next week. "Right now most of the staff of the Commissioner's Office are shopping for goodies that are needed most by the flood victims. We'll prepare them as quick as we could and distribute them as soon as possible," said Eala. While the PBA is a sports organization, he said the league conducts outreach programs and other civic-oriented activities on a regular basis. "For many years now, the PBA has remained the country's top sports entertainment because the fans continue to support us. And we want them to know that we appreciate what they have done and that we care for them, too," Eala said.

Navy vs Air 21 in Espiritu Cup

IT WILL be Philippine Navy against Air 21 and Air Force against Balfour Beatty on Monday at the start of the 7th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament quarterfinals at the PAF gym in Villamor. L/Cmdr. Roelito Nolaso's Airmen and Louie Mangahis' Balfour square off at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Toti Paredes' SSC-Cavite and Homer Go's Homer Cagers also made it to the quarterfinals of the tourney organized by NBDL (National Basketball Development League) in honor of sportsman-businessman Danny Espiritu. Cebu's M. Lhuillier may play in the final four, according to organizer Ted Magno. SSC-Cavite finished on top of the nine-team field with a 7-1 record, followed by Navy (6-2), Air Force (5-3), Homer Cagers (5-3), Balfour Beatty (4-4), Air 21 (4-4), PATTS (4-4), RTU (1-7), and BF Law (0-8).



MACAU HOSTING ASIAN KARTING
The 4th leg of the Asian Karting Open Championships will be held in Macau on Nov. 13-14 with the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Brunei, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, China and Macau competing. Signing the contract are (from left) Chong Coc Veng, president of the China-Macau Autosports Club; Dr. Fernando Chui Sai On, secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of Macau, and Johnny G. Tan, organizer of the Asian Karting Championship and managing director, Batangas Racing Circuit.



GNC ENDORSERS
PBA stars Ali Peek and Nic Belasco recently renewed their agreement with GNC, the leading retailer of high-quality vitamins and food supplements worldwide, as image models. GNC has almost 50 outlets nationwide. From left are Anthony Suntay, who represents the two endorsers as manager/agent, Peek, JV Borromeo VP for operations of GNC, Belasco, and Sherwin Bringas, PR and events coordinator of GNC, during the contract signing.

Manila Jaycee holds golfest

THE MANILA Jaycee Senate will hold a four-leg invitati al golf tournament starting on Wednesday at the Legen course of the Southwood Golf and Country Club as pa its fund-raising activities for its 25th founding annive sary. Tee-off time is 9 a.m. MJC Senate president Joel Santos is inviting all Jaycee Senators, regular memb and their guests to participate. Tournament director Le Kierulf said the Molave-Stableford scoring system wil used. The tourney's major sponsors are Davies Paint a PCSO with Philippine Sports Commission, The Palm G den and Eastern Assurance & Surety Corp. as supporte Interested parties may contact the Manila Jaycee Sen Golf secretariat at 8111374/75.

Mila calls for reconciliation

METROPOLITAN Chess Club president Mila Emperado yesterday appealed for peace and reconciliation in the wake of attempts to discredit the recent National Chess Federation of the Philippines election. "Let's put an end t all the bickering and infighting which only hurt the game that we all love," said Emperado, one of the eight new di rectors elected to the 15-man board. Emperado is one o the respondents in the suit filed by former treasurer Co stantino Marcaide before the Regional Trial Court in Que zon City. "The issue of whether the election is legal or n is now in the hands of the court. The least we could do to wait for the decision," said Emperado, who founded MCC in 1988 and started Checkmate. Emperado denied that the recent NCFP polls were rigged. "I did not wait th for 10 hours just to be part of a sham exercise," she sai

4-stag derby slated at PCC

FIERCE encounters are scheduled in another 4-stag de by tonight at the fully air-conditioned Pasay City Cockp with Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sag paan B-50 Forten as sponsors. More than 60 fights wi be held in this event to be hosted by Tony Faustino of Davao City. Seeing action are Ramon Mancenares, Jet and Joel Fernando of Pampanga, Richard Bates, Benje Lim, Tony Lasala, Cito Manansala, Butchoy Olano, Sen Ramon Revilla, Bobbit Pies, Arnold Mendoza and Muro Dolorico. Last week, partners Elmer Codilla and Lope Dorado of Ormoc City bagged the championship of the "Annual Richard Bates 7-Stag Derby" when their entry, Ormoc Valencia, tallied seven victories. Meanwhile, Pasay Cockpit's new format of hackfight (2-cock ulutan will start on Sunday. For inquiries, contact 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750.

She and COLUMBIA PICTURES invite you to the Special Premiere of "13 GOING ON 30" on Sept. 10, 2004 Friday at Cinema 10 SM Megamall 7:30 p.m.
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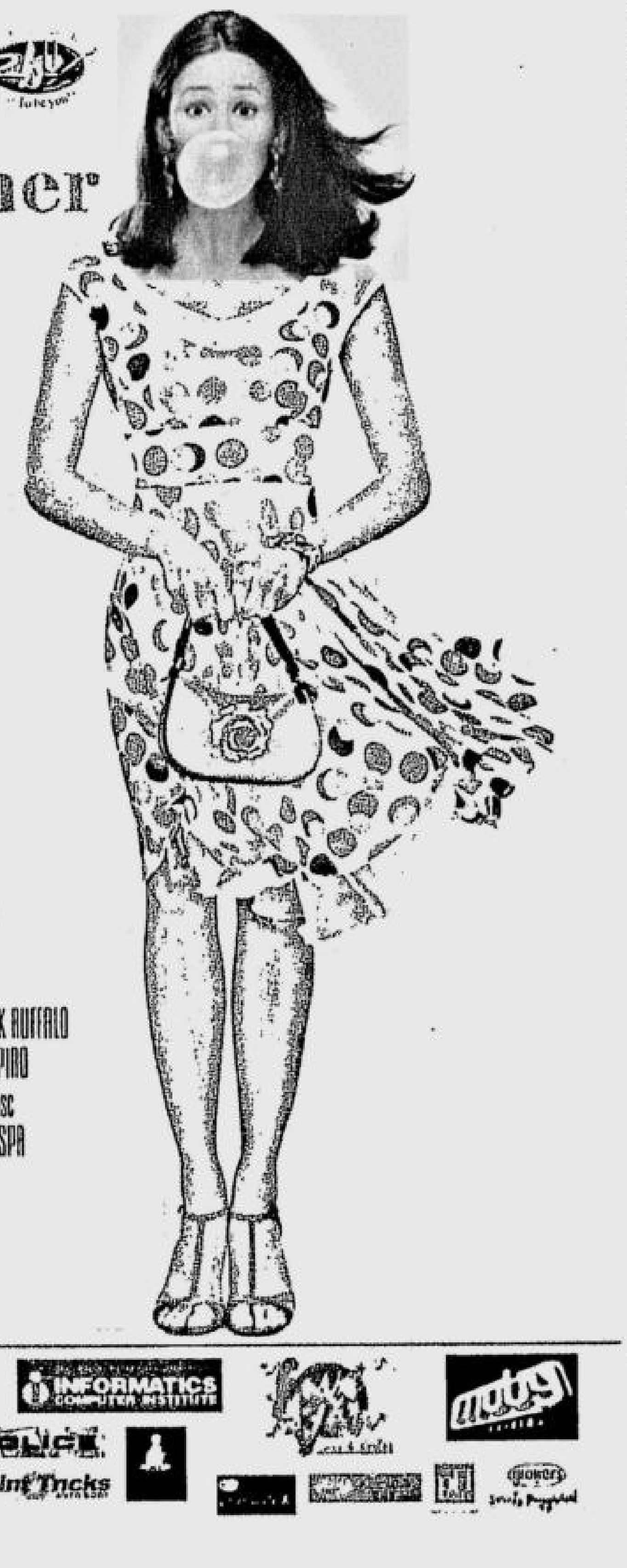

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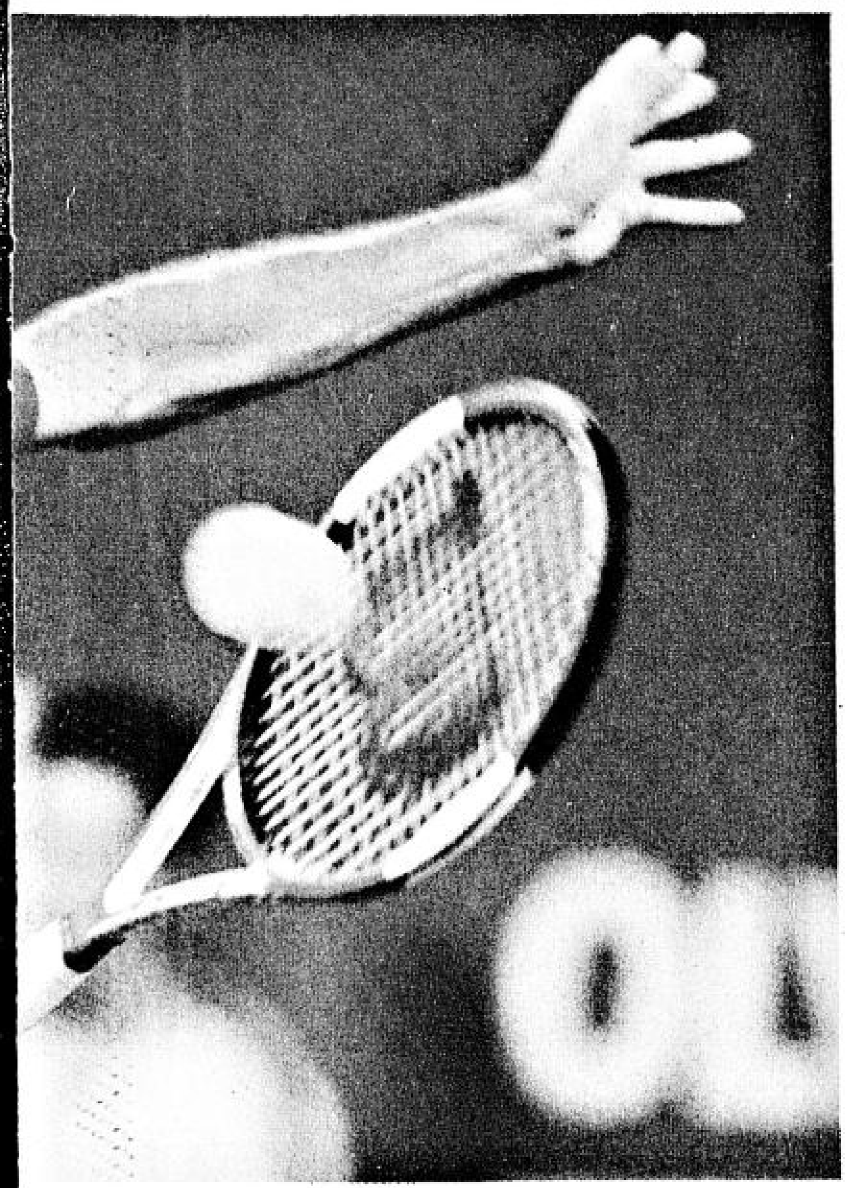

esence felt

bably ever played," Hewitt said.
three-time Grand Slam winner
st the semifinals at Flushing
ved into the third round by beat-
na of Spain, 6-0, 6-2.
d an easy match, as expected, in
w American Lindsay Lee-Wa-
n the second round.
d a harder time getting her at-
ght. Before the match, she ap-
chair umpire and wondered
one could retrieve her purse from the locker room. Seems she had left her earrings behind.

American Angela Haynes upset 22nd-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, 6-2, 6-3, to reach the third round.

Second-seeded Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo, the Olympic silver medalist, hung to beat 105th-ranked Julia Vakulenko of Ukraine, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

The top-seeded Federer rolled into the third round with a 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-1 victory over Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus. *AP*

National Inter-Club badminton tourney set

BADMINTON courts and facilities in Metro Manila and selected cities nationwide are slated to see action in the first National Inter-Club Platinum Cup starting next month.

Presented by Globe Platinum, the event organized by INQUIRER Badminton (IB) promises to be one of the year's most exciting tournaments as 60 partner courts of INQUIRER Badminton have been invited to participate.

Partner courts will be divided into five areas: North (Quezon City), Central (Mandaluyong, San Juan, Makati), West (Caloocan, Valenzuela, Malabon, Manila), East (Pasig, Marikina, Rizal) and South (Muntinlupa, Alabang, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Taguig). Provincial teams will have a separate division.

Clubs located in the areas mentioned will go through a series of weekend eliminations with the top teams per area advancing to the national finals of the event that has also drawn the support of Mizuno through its local distributor, Master Sports Inc., on Nov. 19-21.

The West area eliminations will be held on Oct. 2-3, East Oct. 9-10, South Oct. 16-17, Central Oct. 23-24 and North on Oct. 30-31.

Each club will be asked to send in a team for the following categories: men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles. Matches will be a best-of-three affair.

Eligibility rules require players to be a Filipino citizen, a member or regular player of the participating partner court and a bona fide employee of a reputable company. He or she must not have played for any national team, is not currently playing for a collegiate team and not a coach or trainer.

Aside from the regular updates in the INQUIRER broadsheet and IB, details of the Inter-Club will also be posted in the electronic version of the magazine to be launched soon.

The organizers are leaving the selection process for the partner courts' representatives for the area eliminations to the discretion of their respective managements. For inquiries, call the INQUIRER Badminton office at 8978808 locals 259 or 261. Look for Ching dela Cruz.

Bata, 50, still the sports fans' favorite

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

(FAREWELL TO A DEARLY DEPARTED. I extend my deepest sympathies to the family of my sister, Chuchie Hermoso, whose loving husband, Vicente Hermoso Jr., died on Wednesday morning of cardiac arrest at the Asian Hospital. At the time of his death, Jun Hermoso was president of the Meycauayan College, one of the oldest and leading schools in Bulacan. A much-admired Rotarian, civic leader and philanthropist, Jun passed away at age 67. His remains lie at the Meycauayan church. Interment will be on Sunday morning after the 8 a.m. Mass).

***

DURABLE Efren "Bata" Reyes, who turned 50 last Aug. 26, may be old as an athlete, but he is still good for some more years, says his longtime manager, Rollie Vicente.

"Efren is good for five more years. *Hindi pa siya laos* (He is not yet a washed-up player)," said Vicente of the Puyat Sports Team after Reyes beat reigning world pool champion Alex Pagulayan, 13-12, Tuesday in the nail-biting finals of "On Cue 3: Continental Conquest" held before a capacity crowd of mostly pro-Bata fans at the Trade Hall of the Robinsons Galleria.

The victory, worth $20,000 (P1.1 million), proved that Hall of Famer Reyes is not yet over the hill, that his best years are well behind him. The victory also underscored a banner year for the unassuming Reyes, who had earlier dominated the five-leg San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball Tour and the 6th Annual Derby City Classic in Louisville, Kentucky, where 303 world-class players participated.

Now that Reyes has consistently proven that he is still a force to reckon with at the pool table, it would do well for officials of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines headed by president Ernesto Fajardo to name Reyes to the national team that will compete in the Southeast Asian Games which the country will be hosting next year.

Billiards leaders should also include in the national team Pagulayan, a Canadian citizen who recently reacquired Filipino citizenship, and last year's world No. 1 player Francisco "Django" Bustamante, an "On Cue 3" semifinalist, to help boost our medal chances in the 2005 SEA Games. Their forbidding presence in the Philippine team will surely make the opposition tremble in fear, boosting the country's all-out campaign to win the SEA Games overall championship.

"I want the Philippines to be No. 1 again in Southeast Asia," PSC chair Eric Buhain once quoted President Macapagal-Arroyo as saying.

7-stag derby tomorrow

THE 18TH Annual RAY-Showdown 7-Stag Derby will be held tomorrow at the Roligon Mega Cockpit with more than 100 entries. Hosted by Danny Ty, lawyer Romero Yu & Juancho Aguirre with Mimi Itchon as screener, the three-day spectacle is sponsored by Thunderbird Enertone, Lakpue Drug and Casino Filipino. The screening of stags which started last Aug. 4 swept 150 gamefowl farms wherein 3,638 young roosters were pre-qualified and banded. The 2-stag preliminaries is set to kick off at 5 p.m.

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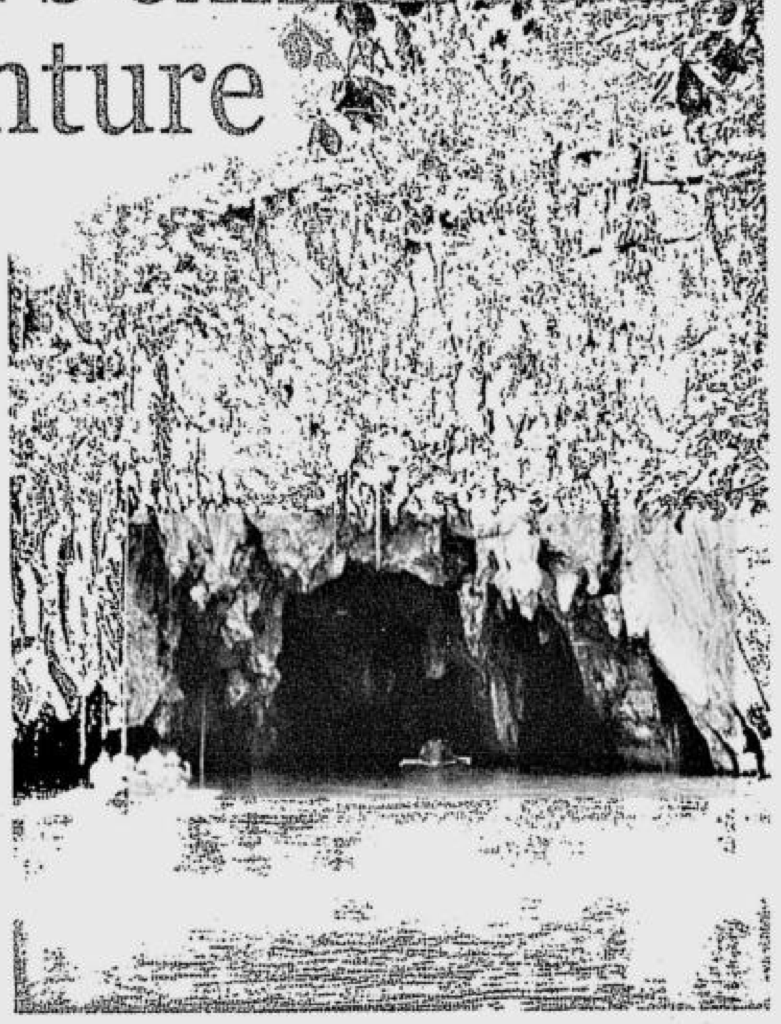

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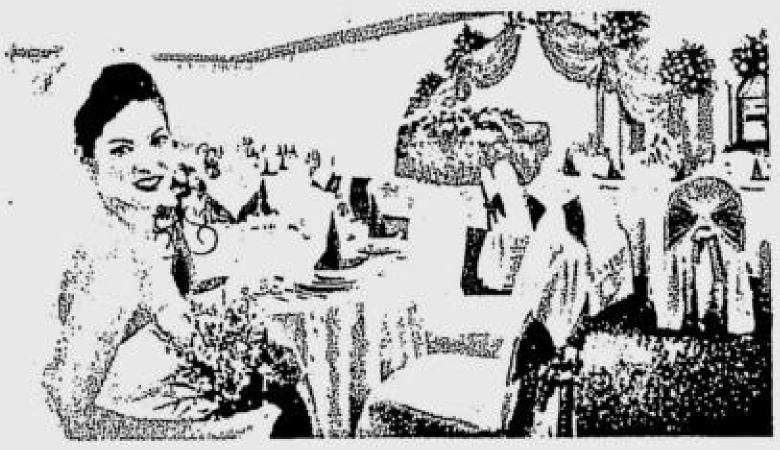
CARITAS HEALTH SHIELD AT THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL

Vice president Fredy S. De la Cruz of Caritas Health Shield Inc recently conducted the 2nd of 7 batches of Caplets on Chains 2004. Caplets on its 5th year, is an advance re-accreditation program for the select 218 agency and group managers based in the company's 87 branches nationwide. Photo shows Fredy S. De la Cruz (left side, standing) with the company's members of the Northern Luzon Training Officer Corps together with the Executive Plaza Hotel account manager - Erickson Gargarita (right side, standing).



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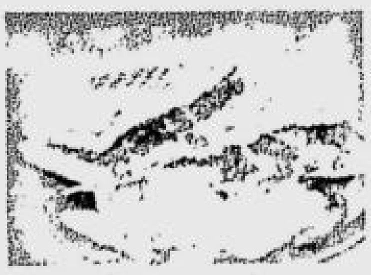

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Lychees and celebrations at Dusit Hotel Nikko

QUENCH your thirst with Dusit Hotel Nikko's Drink of the Month for September. Lychee-licious is a refreshing blend of lychees, pineapple juice, grenadine and other liqueur. Priced at P370++, the drink comes with an adorable doggie stuff toy.

Another unique creation is the Deli's special cake of the month - Lychee Surprise. A whole cake is priced at P730.00 net, while one slice is at P75.00 net.

Both are available in all restaurants for the entire month of September.

Join Fiesta San Miguel, the first and only restaurant and bar in a hotel setting offering freshly brewed beer in their 1st year anniversary this month of September. Enjoy the restaurant's beer-all-you can daily for only P270++ from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. And from 9 p.m. onwards, get two frosted mugs of beer for the price of one. Bring your family to Fiesta San Miguel every Sunday and enjoy a buffet spread of favorite Filipino cuisines for only P750++ for adults and P375++ for kids ages 3 to 12. Different entertainment and activities await all kids.

For queries and reservations, call 867-3333.

Ascott appoints area GM in Manila

THE ASCOTT Group has appointed Arthur Gindap as its Area General Manager for Manila. Gindap will oversee the operational performance of the group's three serviced residences in the city, with emphasis on sales and marketing, brand building, and maintaining Ascott's product and service delivery standards.

Ascott is a leading international serviced residence chain with 13,800 serviced residence units in 39 cities in 16 countries. In Manila, Ascott operates the 138-unit Somerset Millennium, 150-unit Somerset Salcedo and 116-unit Somerset Olympia serviced residences in the prime Makati City area.

Previously general manager of the property division at The Mulia Group in Jakarta, Gindap has 15 years' experience in the hospitality industry. He has worked for international hospitality companies such as The Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, Swiss-Belhotel International and Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts. He holds a diploma in Hotel and Restaurant Administration in Sheridan College in Ontario, Canada.

Cine Europa goes for the bigger picture

By Constantino C. Tejero

SHOW TIME

ONE would think Filipino moviegoers have had a surfeit of world cinema by now, what with a series of film festivals spread over June and July. But what do you know, at this time of the year, more film fests are coming, ongoing, or just concluded.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines presented two weeks ago the Pride International Film Festival, featuring a bursting cornucopia of gay, lesbian and transgender films.

Ongoing until December is the Italian Film Festival, with one film a month screened on a Tuesday at the CCP Dream Theater. Don't miss Antonioni's "Red Desert" on Sept. 7; Rossellini's "Paisan," Oct. 12; the Tavianis' "Padre Padrone," Nov. 9.

Over at SM Megamall, in Cinema 6, the Goethe Institute just concluded a film fest called "Movies Live," featuring those rarest of rare gems: Fritz Lang's "Metropolis"; and F.W. Murnau's "Faust—A German Folk Tale," "The Last Laugh" and "Nosferatu, A Symphony of Horror."

These are classics of the silent cinema, masterpieces of German Expressionism. The screenings were accompanied by live scoring performed by some of our more progressive musicians.

And then there is, of course, Cine Europa, the annual festival of contemporary art films from the European Union.

One of the most anticipated film events in the country, this used to be held in October. Now that it is handled by the Mowelfund Film Institute, it is expanding and the films will be shown in the provinces, so it has to be held earlier.

The 7th Cine Europa formally opened yesterday at The Podium with a simultaneous launch at SM Megamall. At the opening, Dutch Ambassador Robert Vornis, president of the European Union in the Philippines, and Ambassador Jan de Kok, head of the delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, gave some remarks.

More entries

This year's festival theme is "The Bigger Picture," referring to the bigger number of entries, 14 in all; the provincial outreach and the subsequent bigger audiences; and the addition of the Czech Republic to the membership.

The Czech entry, Jan Hrebejk's "Divided We Fall," had been premiered in the country two years ago, during the Cinemanila International Film Festival. It was nominated for Best Foreign-Language Film at the 2001 Academy Awards.

Another Oscar nominee that had also been shown here, specifically at the Instituto Cervantes last year, is the Spanish entry, Fernando León de Aranoa's "Los Lunes al sol" (Mondays in the Sun). A second watching of these films would more likely increase one's appreciation.

"SEA OF SILENCE," Belgium

A film that particularly arouses our interest is the Belgian entry "Sea of Silence," since its director Stijn Coninx is the same who made one of our favorites, "Daens." Aware of the exceptional quality of the films coming from this tiny country, we are all the more breathless with anticipation.

But we are always breathless when face to face with excellence. And we assume the rest of the entries to be just as outstanding: Austria's "On the Other Side of the Bridge," by Hu Mei; Belgium's "Hop," by Dominique Standaert; Finland's "Upswing," by Johanna Vuoksenmaa, and "Me and Morrison," by Lenka Hellstedt; France's "Les choristes" (A Real Choirmaster), by Christophe Barratier; Germany's "Distant Lights," by Hans-Christian Schmid; Italy's "Il posto dell' anima" (The Soul's Place), by Riccardo Milani; the Netherlands' "The Black Meteor," by Guido Pieters; Portugal's "Sweet Nightmare," by Fernando Fragata; Sweden's "Deadline;" and the United Kingdom's "Young Adam," by David Mackenzie.

"DIVIDED WE FALL," Czech Republic

More venues

During the presentation of the films to the press at the Alliance Française de Manille, Mowelfund director and film historian Nick Deocampo pointed out that long before Hollywood invaded the country the Francophone culture had arrived on our shores.

"As early as 1897, Lumière shorts were being shown on Escolta," revealed Deocampo. "Some Spanish entrepreneurs were the first to bring the Pathé films to the country. Well, of course, Méliès' made 'Bataille de Manille.'"

With that, Deocampo was confirming the little-known fact that Europeans, particularly the French, Spanish and British, introduced in the country "the first film technologies that later shaped the local film industry."

Cine Europa in ongoing until Sept. 12 at SM Megamall; then goes to SM Cebu on Sept. 16-18; and to SM Baguio on Sept. 24-26. The organizers hope it will cover more urban centers in future editions.

Some years ago, on its early edition, we were hoping organizers of this festival would extend the screenings to the provinces as it was there where people needed these films more, since they were relatively more accessible to Metro Manila residents, anyway. Now it's happening.

Here's to a more vibrant film culture in the country.

And here's to a more film-literate people, who can readily recognize trashy movies and reject them, even if they're upscale trash.

CASTING CALL. Kris Aquino leads the stars of "Feng Shui" (clockwise from back, left) Jay Manalo, Jenny Miller, Ilonah Jean, Lotlot de Leon, director Chito Roño and child stars.

Roño's 'Feng Shui' to be shown in US, Hong Kong

STAR Cinema's "Feng Shui" the horror-drama directed by Chito Roño from a screenplay by Roy Iglesias, will be shown in an international premiere at the Golf Glen Theater in Chicago on Sept. 18, three days after it opens in the Philippines.

The movie's stars, led by Kris Aquino and Jay Manalo, may grace the US screening which will also include Los Angeles and Daly City in California, as well as Honolulu and Maui in Hawaii, and in Guam.

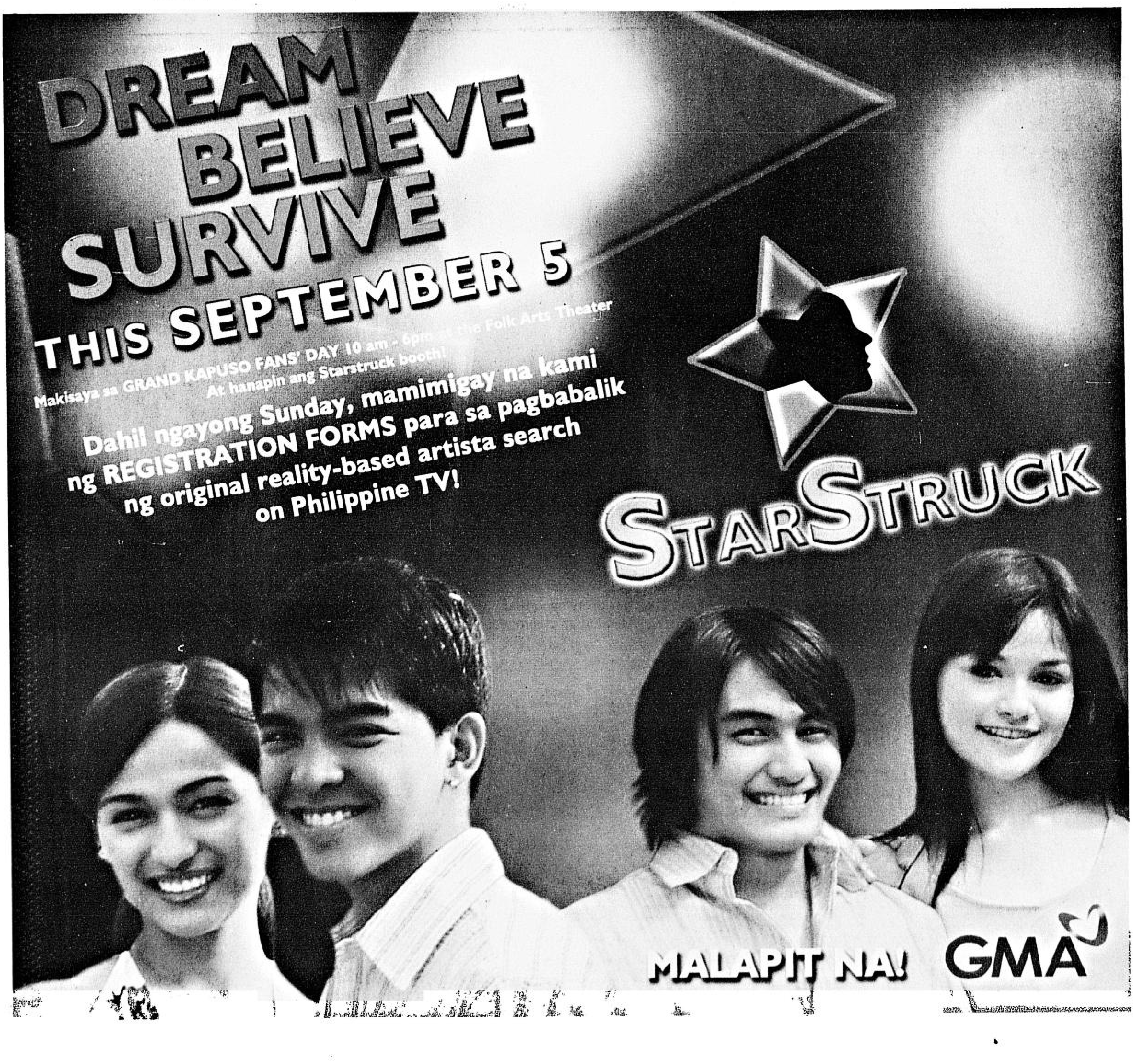
"Feng Shui" will also be shown in Saipan and Hong Kong.

"Feng Shui" is the story of a couple (Kris and Jay) who is blessed with good fortune after the wife finds a mysterious mirror, called *ba-gua* by the Chinese, left behind by a stranger.

It turns out the mirror brings not just good fortune but also bad fortune, as the couple learns too late.

"Feng Shui" is Kris' first horror-drama starrer.

It also stars Lotlot de Leon, Ilonah Jean and Jenny Miller.



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Lav Diaz's 10-hour film screens in Toronto

By Marinel R. Cruz

AWARD-WINNING independent filmmaker Lav Diaz's 10-hour opus "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" is the lone Philippine representative to the weeklong 2004 Toronto International Film Festival in Canada this month.

Diaz will fly to Canada on Sept. 15, in time for the screening of "Ebolusyon" on Sept. 17 and 18.

"Ebolusyon" will be featured in the Visions category along with 19 other films, which include Kevin Spacey's "Beyond the Sea," Zhang Yimou's "House of Flying Daggers," Jean-Paul Salomé's "Arsène Lupin," and Carlo Mazzacurati's "An Italian Romance."

"Visions focuses on the innovative," according to the Toronto Film Fest website (www.bell.ca/filmfest). "It spotlights work that enters new cinematic territory, uses unusual approaches to storytelling, or employs new technologies in distinctive ways.

"Visions is an exciting new program featuring international filmmakers pushing the boundaries of contemporary cinema," the website added.

According to Diaz, his production outfit, SineOlivia, received a formal invitation from the Toronto film fest organizer, Steve Gravestock, last month.

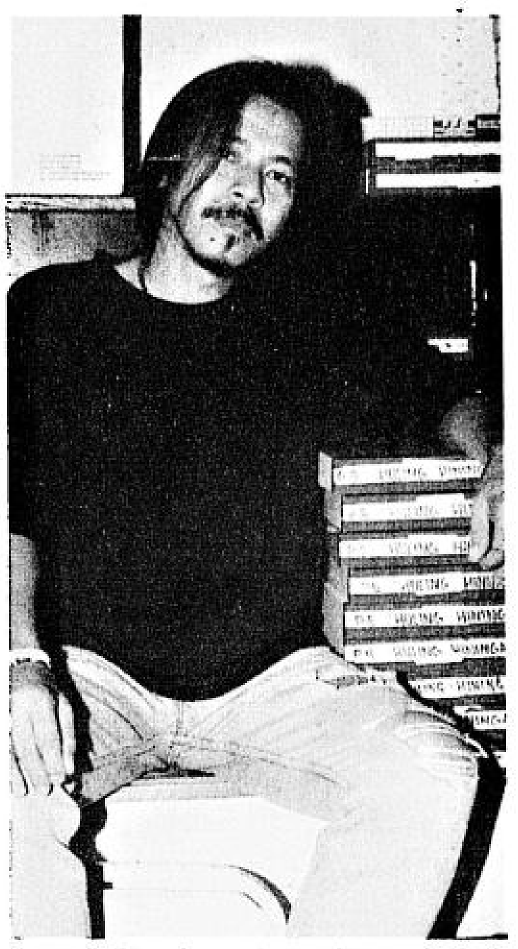
'I assure you, I'll finish this in time for the film fest'

"Gravestock went to my studio in Cubao to watch the rough draft (of 'Ebolusyon')," Diaz told INQUIRER Entertainment in a telephone interview last Monday. "I guess he liked what he saw because I got the invitation a month later."

The film's "rough draft" is eight hours long, said Diaz. But the "restructured version for Toronto" will run for nine hours and 40 minutes, he added.

Diaz said "Ebolusyon" is now 10 hours long. He only has a VHS copy of the movie because his computer crashed a month before his new movie was to have its Philippine premiere at the Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival last July.

"I assure you, we'll finish this in time for the film fest," Diaz told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I'll hand-carry it myself."



DIAZ. "I'll hand-carry it myself."

In a previous interview, Diaz described "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" as about a family trying to save itself and solve its little problems. The movie also deals with the family dysfunctions caused by poverty, he said.

The director said "Ebolusyon" was first shot in New York on March 8, 1994. "It's been a decade," he said. "We've shot scenes in Virginia, Maryland, and other parts of the US, although you won't see them in the final version anymore. We shot some scenes in Antipolo, Rizal, five days ago."

"Ebolusyon" was the last film actor Rey Ventura made before he died in 2001, said Diaz.

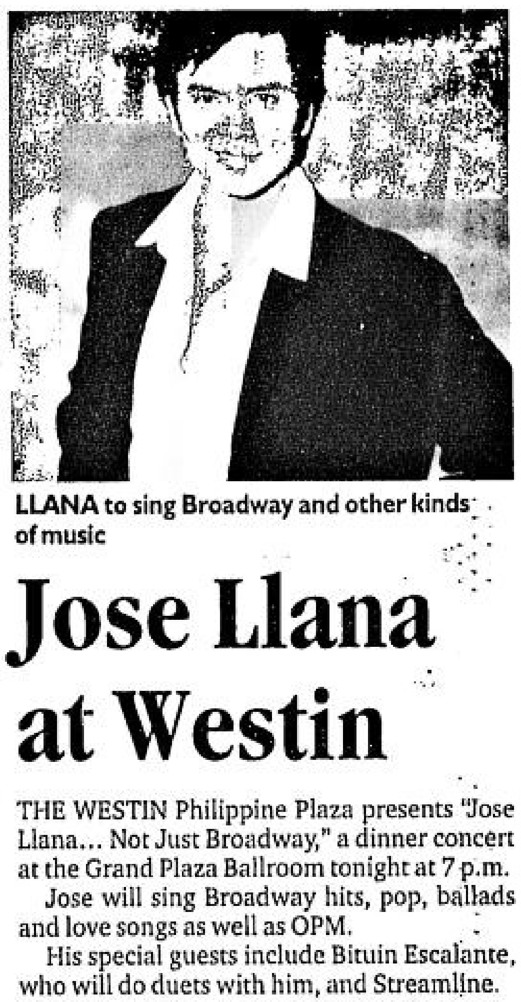
"A lot of people sacrificed for this film," he said. "Many volunteered their help, especially people from the theater and from Mowelfund (Movie Workers Welfare Foundation). We really struggled. We only shoot when we have money to shoot."

Diaz's award-winning five-hour masterpiece, "Batang West Side," also shot in the US, is continuously doing the rounds of international film fests.

"Being recognized internationally is good for the local independent cinema," he said. "I believe that we should all work hard for this."

He said "Ebolusyon" would also be featured at the Singapore film fest early next year. The Berlin and Rotterdam festivals have shown interest in including the movie in their short-lists, he said.

"Ebolusyon" is a production of SineOlivia and Paul Tañedo Inc.



LLANA to sing Broadway and other kinds of music

Jose Llana at Westin

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza presents "Jose Llana… Not Just Broadway," a dinner concert at the Grand Plaza Ballroom tonight at 7 p.m.

Jose will sing Broadway hits, pop, ballads and love songs as well as OPM.

His special guests include Bituin Escalante, who will do duets with him, and Streamline.

Jose burst into the American theater in 1996, performing in various musicals and winning rave reviews. In October 2002, he played the lead role of Ta in the new Broadway version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Flower Drum Song" opposite Lea Salonga.

After his successful concert last year at The Westin, Jose has returned to Manila to continue to dazzle Philippine audiences.

Tickets to the world-class performer's show are P2,500 per person inclusive of a five-course set dinner, and P1,000 per person for show only.

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Sept.4	Lumba Langoy Swimming Competition	Lion's Beach
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	Lutuna Culinary Arts Competition & Sashimi Night	EARH Parking Lot
Sept.5	Hottah Hottah sa Pioneer Avenue	Pioneer Avenue
	Higante sa Dagat	Acharon Sports Complex
	Parada ng Dagat: Street Dancing Competition	Acharon Sports Complex
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PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

FROM STAR TO FAN. Tessie Agana as "Roberta" in the '50s blockbuster (above) and as "plain housewife, mother and grandmother" with husband Dr. Rodolfo Jao

The ex-child superstar who brought a studio back from the ashes

By Nini Valera

THE FORMER child star, who had a horde of fans during her reign in the '50s, is now a big fan herself.

"Now, I am the biggest fan of Filipino stars," says Tessie Agana. "I have The Filipino Channel at home, and it's on all the time. Every time my children would ask me what was going on in Philippine show biz, I could tell them what's happening. Just hearing all this news about the stars gets me excited."

YESTERDAY

Agana, a superstar before the term was invented, now says she would rather forget her life as a child star in the '50s.

"That is history now," she says. "It's funny that when I tell my kids how famous I was, they couldn't figure out how that could be. Like, 'Hey, is this really my mom?'"

Haunting memory

The sight of a child losing her finger while trying to get near her has haunted the former child actress.

Agana, now 61 and who now refers to herself as a "plain housewife, mother of nine children and grandmother of two," recalls the incident as vividly as if it happened yesterday.

"I'll never forget this," she begins. "We had a personal appearance in a province, and all the kids and people were there. It was so scary. I was being pinched and all that. We were inside a hotel room and they tried to get in. Other people were protecting us and they closed the door. One of the kids—her finger was severed. I was so scared. But all I could do was cry."

She remembers the child being brought to a hospital, but doesn't know what happened to her.

When her family returned from the US to the Philippines for a visit in the '80s and saw parts of "Roberta," the movie that made Agana a big star, she had to translate the dialogue for her children.

"They couldn't understand it," she says.

In the collective memories of diehard movie fans, the tearjerker "Roberta" lives on as monumental movie that turned the curly-haired child into a celluloid giant.

5-year-old actress

To Sampaguita Pictures matriarch Nena Vera-Perez, Agana was a child who did wonders for the studio and the industry.

"She was only 5 years old when we tried her out for the movies," says Mrs. Vera-Perez. "Her mother, Consuelo Agana (also a former actress known as Linda Estrella), is my first cousin. We were neighbors, and we would be together all the time.

"The Doctor (the late Jose A. Perez) saw that Tessie could cry very well. So he tried her out in a movie with Pancho Magalona. She then appeared in two movies."

Agana's version of how she was discovered for the movies is more matter of fact.

"I guess they saw me and tried me out for a movie," she says. "That's all I know because I was still young then. Fortunately, the movie did well."

When the Sampaguita Pictures studios burned down in 1951, the Vera-Perezes wanted to close shop. But their contract stars prevailed on them to save the company and offered their services for free.

"At that time, we were looking at the *komiks* novel 'Roberta' by Mars Ravelo," says Mrs. Vera-Perez.

Always a pro

The movie based on the *komiks* novel, directed by Olive La Torre, was filmed on a super-tight budget. But it went on to be a blockbuster during its one-week run at the Life Theater in downtown Manila.

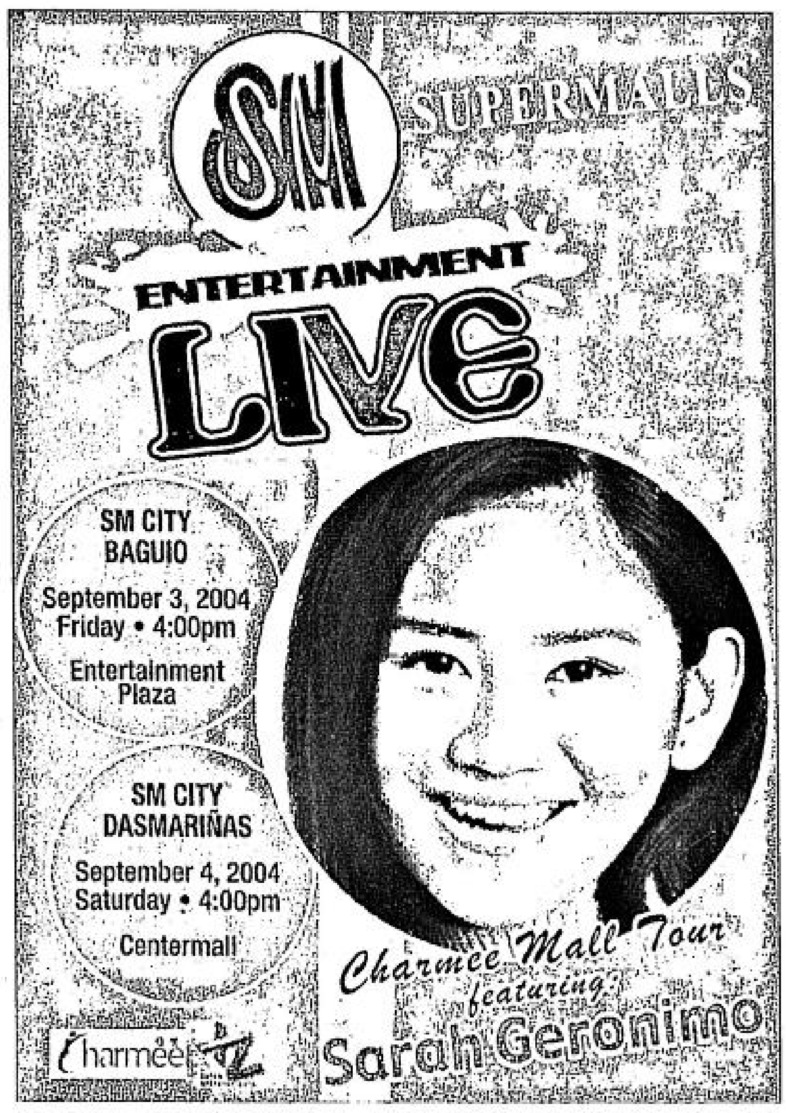
"At that time, the other producers and I had an agreement that even if a movie was making good, it would only be shown a week at Life or Dalisay theater," explains Mrs. Vera-Perez. "'Roberta' broke all the existing records at that time. It helped us get back on our feet."

Until she was 11, Agana starred in movies

THE EX-CHILD/ A34

DID YOU KNOW...

Christopher de Leon and wife **Sandy Andolong**, **Tirso Cruz III** and wife **Lyn Ynchausti**, and **Edgar Mortiz** and wife **Millette Santos** were seen having dinner together at Gloria Maris Restaurant at Greenbelt 3 in Makati City last Tuesday night. "They were very friendly with the other restaurant guests," said a witness.



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Give It All	Rachel Ann Go	TONE GIVEALL
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Sweetest Sin	Jessica Simpson	POLY SWEETEST
Take My Breath Away	Jessica Simpson	POLY TAKEBREATH
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What Am I Too You	Norah Jones	POLY WATAMI
Living Without You	Luke Mejares	POLY LIVNGWOUT
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Out Is Through	Alanis Morissette	POLY OUTIS
Your Smiling Face	James Taylor	POLY SMILEFACE

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SMART Simply Amazing!

Agot complete without a baby

ADOPTION is not an option for Agot, who stars in "Baby," and her husband Manu.

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

SHOW TIME

AGOT Isidro gave up show business for two years, had surgery, and she and her husband Manu Sandejas danced on the street, all so that they would have a baby.

Agot and Manu remain childless after four years of marriage.

The pitter-patter of dainty little feet, a baby's gurgling laughter, a baby's cooing, even its cries: They seem so ordinary and they're taken for granted, but for Agot, they're only a dream, so far. She has been wishing and hoping and praying to hear and to have and to hold her very own baby.

Agot says she has decided to leave it all up to God. Her husband has told her, "We're still complete."

"I gave up show biz by choice, not because Manu wanted me to," Agot, 38, shares. "He never imposes on me. I'm the one who really wants to have a baby because I'm not getting any younger.'

Getting pregnant, however, turned out to be a very complicated matter for Agot. First, she discovered she had a retroverted uterus, "although it's not very uncommon to women," she says. Then doctors suggested she take hormonal shots. She did.

Agot and Manu, an advertising man, even went to Obando, Bulacan, and danced on the street with other childless couples. Street-dancing in Obando is said to be an effective way of asking the heavens for children. "You can ask the people there because they saw us," says Agot.

Complete

In 2002, Agot found out she had a benign myoma in her uterus. Doctors took it out by performing a Caesarian operation on her.

"After that, I was so depressed," Agot says. "I went through the whole process of giving birth, except that there was no baby. When I was in surgery, my husband was my rock and my anchor. He wrote me a letter and gave it to me after my operation. He said, 'Having a baby is a blessing. For people like us, it's a bonus. But if it doesn't happen, we're still complete. We don't need another person to complete us.'

"My husband probably felt we had done enough trying to have a baby. We've consulted three doctors already. Some of our friends suggested we try in vitro or artificial fertilization, which costs $20,000, but we didn't want to do it. It's not in the normal order of things."

Agot says she and Manu have learned to accept that a baby is what they probably could not have. "Today, there's no pressure on us anymore to have a baby," she says. "We just want to enjoy each other. We've become closer. We're prepared to lead a life with only the two of us together. That's fine.

"Manu and I accept, and we're happy. I guess that's more important."

No anger

She makes it clear, however, that acceptance does not mean giving up for good.

"We've made a paradigm shift in our lives. But it doesn't mean we've given up on having a baby. After hearing Sunday Mass at St. James Church in Ayala Alabang, we stay for a few more minutes just to pray. Maybe this is not yet the time to have a baby. If it's God's will, He will give it to us. But we will no longer go through what we went through in trying to have a baby."

Agot says not having a baby is not a reason for her to be angry at God. Her strong faith in God has pulled her out of the depths of depression and kept her going.

"There's really a God," she declares. "I'm not even angry at myself. I used to get irritated when people asked me when I would have a baby. I guess they got tired of asking. I always tell them, 'Ayaw pa ni Lord.' How can they argue with that?"

Adoption is not an option for Manu and Agot. "We don't talk about it," Agot says. "Some people are worried about us and I get so uncomfortable with that. I assure you I no longer feel any longing for a baby, even when I attend baptisms or children's parties."

Theater neophyte

Fortunately, Agot has found therapy to overcome depression: work. Last year, she was in a musical for Trumpets, "Honk." Early this year, she took on the role of a lawyer-mermaid in ABS-CBN's fantasy-drama series, "Marina," starring Claudine Barretto. And when Atlantis Productions offered her to star with Lea Salonga in the musical "Baby," Agot did not pass it up.

Ironically, in "Baby" she plays the role of a gym teacher who tries everything just so she will have a baby. Her character is married to a basketball coach played by Jett Pangan.

The musical is directed by Bobby Garcia and runs until Sept. 5 at the Meralco Theater.

"My role in 'Baby' is so true for me," Agot offers. "In our earlier rehearsals, I would cry. But I accepted this musical because it's a challenge. I'm the theater neophyte in the cast, compared with Lea Salonga and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo.

"I love everything I'm doing now," she adds. "What happened to me was really a big awakening. I've realized that you cannot plan your life. I thought it was so easy to have a baby. I made the right choice by leaving everything up to God."

Agot says she and Manu are happy just having each other. God may yet decide that they deserve to have more happiness.

Exceptions to the rule

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

PRODUCERS and stars of "bold" movies are dismayed by reports that the SM malls' cinema circuit, with its more than 130 theaters, has decided not to show movies rated R-18.

SM officials explain that they have come to this decision because their malls have a predominantly "family" clientele, so the entertainment they offer should be child-friendly.

In general, the viewing public has welcomed this move, and believes that it will help "clean up" the local film scene, which has been quite sex-oriented of late.

On the other hand, sexy actresses have been appearing on TV to protest SM's decision to exclude their R-18 starrers from its list of film attractions.

They complain that, since the SM chain has so many theaters, the exclusion of their bold movies will result in a drastic loss of income for their films' producers.

And, in time, this will discourage financiers to bankroll sexy projects, thus reducing the actresses' performing and earning opportunities.

To our mind, however, the bold stars' protests on TV have been counterproductive, because of their strident and occasionally cheap projection.

In future, therefore, they should try harder to get their act together in a more positive way. It definitely isn't useful for them to behave like spoiled and testy brats, because this could turn even their supporters against them.

For our part, we, too, find exploitative and shlocky sexy flicks off-putting. But we must point out that not only sex- and violence-oriented movies can get an R-18 classification from MTRCB.

What if a mature movie is produced about a sensitive topic, like a hot political or ethical issue, or about a protagonist who eventually rises above a really evil past, and that production were given an R-18 classification? Would that mean that it, too, would not be screened on the SM cinema circuit?

What if the movie were really substantial, thought-provoking and relevant? Despite its controversial and perhaps even shocking elements, it would deserve to be seen by adult viewers.

We suggest, therefore, that SM's new rule should allow for deserving exceptions, significant movies that are clearly not exploitative and demeaning. Otherwise, many of our adult viewers would be deprived of the opportunity to be exposed to challenging, provocative fare.

Sure, the films could be shown outside the SM circuit, but SM has so many theaters that exclusion from its numerous screens would be a major loss. It could discourage producers from bankrolling *all* projects that could get an R-18 classification—and that would be a great pity.

One-actor plays

TANGHALANG Ateneo is staging back-to-back one-actor plays, "Re-Isyu: Linya and Santuario," from Sept. 3 to 11 at the Ateneo's Fine Arts Studio Theater. The plays are written and directed by **Yan Yrastorza Yuson**. Call 984-1042.

"Linya" is about people whose main mission in life is to travel, or else lose all meaning in their lives. "Santuario" looks at life inside a mental institution, and makes viewers rethink what it really means to be insane.

PPO season

THE CCP's Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra has lined up an exciting season under its new music director and principal conductor, **Eugene Castillo**.

The season opener on Sept. 10, "Coming Home," is highlighted by the Philippine premiere of **Angel Peña**'s "Trinity, A Symphonic Cycle," and the performance of soprano **Camille Lopez-Molina** in **Samuel Barbers**' "Knoxville: Summer of 1915" (text by **James Agee**).

Other pieces: Brahms' "Symphony No. 4 in E minor," which begins a four-year annual cycle of the composer's symphonies, and Barbers' "Adagio for Strings from op. 11."

On Oct. 8, Chinese-American violinist **Linda Wang** performs in **Leonard Bernstein's** "Serenade: After Plato's Symposium" for violin and orchestra.

The concert, titled "Windows of Time," looks back to the two world wars of the 20th century: **Bohuslav Sibelius**' "Memorial to Ludice" is on the annihilation of the Czech village, while **Jean Sibelius**' "Symphony No. 5 in E flat major, op. 82" is a piece the composer wrote as bombs fell on Helsinki. *(Other PPO 21st season concerts detailed tomorrow.)*

The ex-child superstar who brought . . .

From page A33

like "Prinsesa at Pulubi," "Rebecca," "Querubim," "Tulisang Pugot," among others.

She was always a pro, according to Mrs. Vera-Perez.

"When she was about to do a take, we'd ask her what she wanted us to give her," she says. "She always came back with, 'I want fried chicken.' We'd give her that all the time."

The request for fried chicken that was always granted did not escape the notice of Marichu Vera-Perez, eldest daughter of the movie mogul Dr. Perez.

"She (Marichu) would always ask me, 'Ma, why is she always given fried chicken and I'm not," relates Mrs. Vera-Perez. "Tessie and Ichu were always together because they were the same age. Ichu would always complain about the fried chicken. So I'd explain to her that she wouldn't get fried chicken because she did not appear in our movies."

The young Tessie Agana was paid a salary, which her doctor father, the late Adriano Agana, deposited in a bank account for her, according to Mrs. Vera-Perez.

"ROBERTA," played by Agana (background, with the late Boy Alano), with the late Van de Leon and "victim" Bella Flores

Tears on cue

Like most child actors, Agana threw tantrums on the set.

"Of course, I had tantrums," she admits now. "But I never held up production."

She did not memorize her lines, "but they would tell me what I should say and then I'd do it."

She was also very good at crying at the drop of a hat.

"Her tears would just fall as if on cue," recalls Mrs. Vera-Perez. "After a take, she would ask, 'Can I play?' Then she would take off and play with Marichu. But when we called her, she would come immediately. She was very cooperative.

"She looked so pitiful when she cried. But after a crying scene, she would come up to us, and ask, 'Can I eat friend chicken?' She was just a child after all."

But nothing was normal for Tessie Agana the child star.

"Although I did not have any idea that I was that big in the movies, and I thought I was just playing, I guess I did not have a normal life," she says.

Three languages

For her to have a normal life, "my parents decided that we should migrate to the US."

She finished college at the De Paul University in Indiana where she took up foreign languages.

"I could speak three languages before," she says, "but unfortunately, if you don't speak it regularly, you lose track."

When Agana turned 18, Dr. Vera-Perez prevailed on her to return to the Philippines to celebrate her coming of age with a party. A comeback movie was also in order for the former child star. In her case, it was two movies, "Amy, Susie and Tessie" with then celluloid goddesses Amalia Fuentes and Susan Roces, and "Love at First Sight" with heartthrob Jose Mari.

But the glamour of show business could not lure back Agana, who confesses to being shy and introverted.

"Until now, I'm still very shy," she says. "When *Tita* Nena (Mrs. Vera-Perez) told me about this interview, I told her, 'I'm already old. I'm no longer in the limelight.

"But Tita Nena told me, 'Tessie, when you're here in Manila, you're still known. I guess that's quite an honor."

Last dance

In 1962, Agana met Dr. Rodolfo Jao at a function after a medical convention in Chicago, Illinois.

"I went to the party without a date because my date stood me up," Dr. Jao recalls. "Then I saw Tessie. It was her father, my future father-in-law, who introduced me to her."

Even if Agana had a date, Dr. Jao could not be stopped from claiming the last dance with her.

"I didn't want to dance with him then," she says of the man who would be her husband. "I had a date. But somehow, he tricked me into it."

"It was easy to do that," says Dr. Jao. "I was in charge of the function, and after I told the band that the next number would be the last dance, I just grabbed Tessie and took her to the dance floor.

STARMAKER. With Mrs. Nena Vera-Perez, whose husband Doc Jose Perez made a star out of Agana.

RUDY ESPERAS

"Oh, yes, I knew she was 'Roberta,'" he adds. "But that was never part of the attraction. I never expected that this little girl would be my wife."

Married and settled in Gary, Indiana, the hometown of Michael Jackson and the Jackson clan, the Jaos raised nine children and put all of them through college.

"It was the hardest thing to do, even for a

THE EX-CHILD/ A38

Platinum champion Erik Santos sings at UP Diliman tonight

SINGING champ Erik Santos kicks off his first campus tour tonight at the Bahay ng Alumni at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Erik's special guests are Michelle Ayalde, young soprano Kim Flores and Myx VJ Karel Marquez.

Show starts at 7 p.m.

Erik has just finished a mall tour to promote his debut album from Star Records titled "This is the Moment," which turned platinum only a few months after its release.

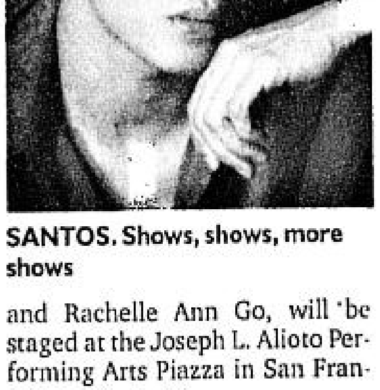
The album's carrier single, "Pagbigyang Muli," is getting frequent airplay on top radio stations and has stayed at the top of the hit charts for several weeks.

Erik is promoting the second single from the album, "Di Ko Kaya," a Vehnee Saturno composition.

Erik will be a guest in Regine Velasquez's homecoming concert titled "Songbird Returns to Malolos," to be held at the Centro Escolar University in Bulacan tomorrow, Saturday.

On Oct. 30, Erik joins the Songbird again in a special show in Laguna.

Erik is apparently also very popular among Filipinos abroad. Due to insistent demand, the hit concert "Night of the Champions," headlined by Erik and his co-champions Sarah Geronimo and Rachelle Ann Go, will be staged at the Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza in San Francisco on Sept. 24.



SANTOS. Shows, shows, more shows

On Oct. 3, Erik will be with Randy Santiago and Rachel Alejandro in a show in Sydney, Australia. In November, he'll perform with comedy concert queen Ai Ai de las Alas in Guam.

Erik, seen every Sunday on "ASAP" on ABS-CBN, is preparing for a major concert in November.

He is the endorser of the newest service of Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the BPI Express Remit.

For inquiries on Erik, call Backroom Inc. at 435-1108, 435-1120, or 435-1098, fax inquiries to 928-0717 or e-mail backroom@nsclub.net.

Iya is Acsat image model

IYA (second from left) with (from left) Acsat VP Raoul Sia, EVP Emmanuel Sia, and Iya's manager Arnold Vegafria.

FIL-AUSTRALIAN teen star Iya is the new image model and spokesperson of the Asian College of Science and Technology (Acsat).

Iya started out as the resident Game Jock of the interactive, text-based game show "Game Channel Extreme," which airs weekday afternoons on ABC-5. She joined the new batch of Regal Idols and also signed up with ABS-CBN, and is now a regular on such shows as "Season of Love" and "ASAP Fanatic." She's also one of the newest VJs of Myx, The Music Channel.

"I'm currently enrolled in one of Acsat's computer courses, and I'm enjoying every minute of it," says the young star.

Acsat has links to Canada that allow nursing graduates to try out in Canada right after graduation.

Founded in 1972 by the husband and wife team of Constancio Sia and Gloria D. Sia, Acsat started with 300 students on its first campus in Cubao, Quezon City. It was then named the Asian Institute of Electronics, which became Acsat June 1995.

Today, it has 10 campuses all over the country. The school scored a triple win at the 2nd Annual SGETech Software Cup held last June 26 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Ms Devy Geronimo of Acsat Baliuag was named grand champion, and was awarded P100,000 and a chance to join the SGETech programming staff.

BALQUIEDRA with big guests German Moreno, Cory Vidanes and Charo Santos-Concio

Big stars at Big Fish

LUMINARIES from show business brightened the action recently at Somethin' Fishy when the popular seafood grill and restaurant in Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City held a special celebrity night.

The restaurant's chair of the board Lito Balquiedra Jr., a former broadcasting hotshot, played host to many of his former colleagues as well as to some of the brightest young stars in movies and TV.

Helping entertain the guests were pretty sisters Emmarose and Emmalyn Policarpio, both involved in the operation of the restaurant.

Among the celebrities who graced the affair were ABS-CBN top exec Charo Santos and Cory Vidanes, the unsinkable Master Showman German Moreno, young comedian Vhong Navarro with fellow comics Ogie Diaz, Tado and Empoy, actresses Aubrey Miles and Shirley Fuentes, "30 Days" runner-up Biboy Ramirez and finalist Anna Larrucea, award-winning composer Dero Pedro, commercial model and sportscaster Paolo Trillo, models Trisha Veloso and Carla Diaz de Rivera and Star Circle Quest finalist Joross Gamboa.

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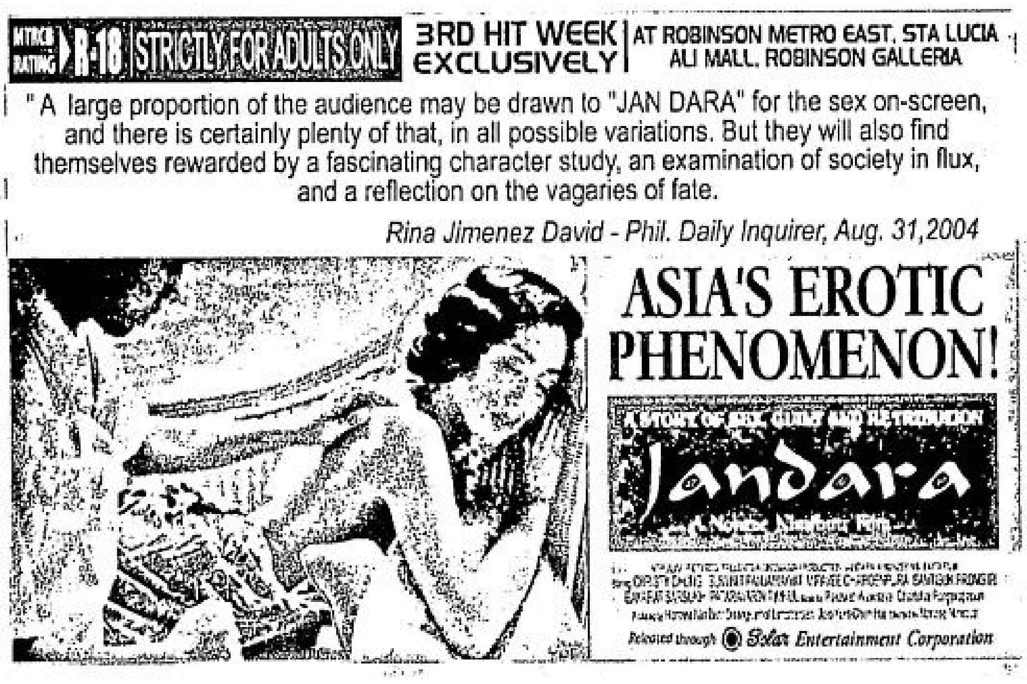

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Rina Jimenez David - Phil. Daily Inquirer, Aug. 31,2004

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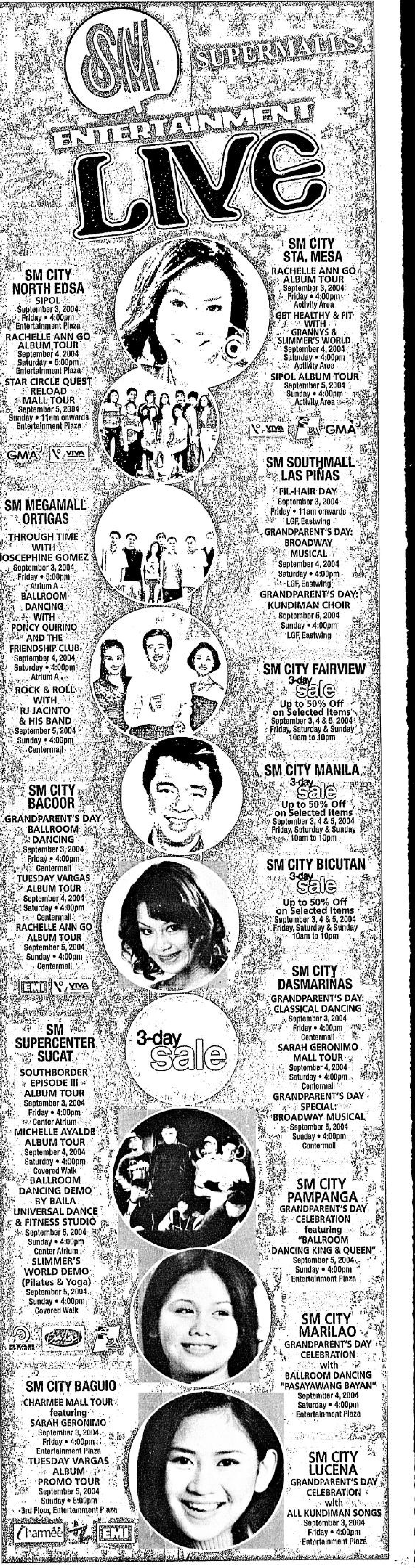

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September 5, 2004
Sunday • 11am onwards
Entertainment Plaza
GMA VIVA

SM CITY STA. MESA
RACHELLE ANN GO ALBUM TOUR
September 3, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Activity Area
GET HEALTHY & FIT WITH GRANNYS & SLIMMER'S WORLD
September 4, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Activity Area
SIPOL ALBUM TOUR
September 5, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Activity Area
VIVA GMA

SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS
THROUGH TIME WITH JOSCEPHINE GOMEZ
September 3, 2004
Friday • 5:00pm
Atrium A
BALLROOM DANCING WITH PONCY QUIRINO AND THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB
September 4, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Atrium A
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September 5, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Centermall

SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS
FIL-HAIR DAY
September 3, 2004
Friday • 11am onwards
LGF, Eastwing
GRANDPARENT'S DAY: BROADWAY MUSICAL
September 4, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
LGF, Eastwing
GRANDPARENT'S DAY: KUNDIMAN CHOIR
September 5, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
LGF, Eastwing

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
3-day sale
Up to 50% Off on Selected Items
September 3, 4 & 5, 2004
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
10am to 10pm

SM CITY MANILA
3-day sale
Up to 50% Off on Selected Items
September 3, 4 & 5, 2004
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
10am to 10pm

SM CITY BACOOR
GRANDPARENT'S DAY BALLROOM DANCING
September 3, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Centermall
TUESDAY VARGAS ALBUM TOUR
September 4, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Centermall
RACHELLE ANN GO ALBUM TOUR
September 5, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Centermall
EMI VIVA

SM CITY BICUTAN
3-day sale
Up to 50% Off on Selected Items
September 3, 4 & 5, 2004
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
10am to 10pm

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
GRANDPARENT'S DAY: CLASSICAL DANCING
September 3, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Centermall
SARAH GERONIMO MALL TOUR
September 4, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Centermall
GRANDPARENT'S DAY SPECIAL: BROADWAY MUSICAL
September 5, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Centermall

3-day sale

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
SOUTHBORDER EPISODE III ALBUM TOUR
September 3, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Center Atrium
MICHELLE AYALDE ALBUM TOUR
September 4, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Covered Walk
BALLROOM DANCING DEMO BY BAILA UNIVERSAL DANCE & FITNESS STUDIO
September 5, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Center Atrium
SLIMMER'S WORLD DEMO (Pilates & Yoga)
September 5, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Covered Walk
STAR

SM CITY PAMPANGA
GRANDPARENT'S DAY CELEBRATION featuring "BALLROOM DANCING KING & QUEEN"
September 5, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza

SM CITY MARILAO
GRANDPARENT'S DAY CELEBRATION with BALLROOM DANCING "PASAYAWANG BAYAN"
September 4, 2004
Saturday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza

SM CITY BAGUIO
CHARMEE MALL TOUR featuring SARAH GERONIMO
September 3, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza
TUESDAY VARGAS ALBUM PROMO TOUR
September 5, 2004
Sunday • 6:00pm
3rd Floor, Entertainment Plaza
Charmee EMI

SM CITY LUCENA
GRANDPARENT'S DAY CELEBRATION with ALL KUNDIMAN SONGS
September 3, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza

It's movietime at SM CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL
6331901
1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 ANACONDAS
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 SUPER SIZE ME
6 CINE EUROPA
7 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
8 CONNIE AND CARLA
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 ANACONDAS
11 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
12 COLLATERAL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9360749
1 ANACONDAS
2 COLLATERAL
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7 ANACONDAS
8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
11 I, ROBOT
12 THE VILLAGE

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 THE VILLAGE
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 THE NOTEBOOK
6 ANACONDAS
7 CONNIE AND CARLA
8 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
9 ANACONDAS
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
11 SUPER SIZE ME
12 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 CONNIE AND CARLA
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ANACONDAS
5 THE NOTEBOOK
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
8 ANACONDAS

SM CITY STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416
1 ANACONDAS
2 CONNIE AND CARLA
3 ANACONDAS
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
7 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 THE NOTEBOOK
10 THE VILLAGE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 ANACONDAS
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 THE NOTEBOOK
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

North

SM CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2013 to 17
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 STEPFORD WIVES
4 ANACONDAS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 ANACONDAS
2 ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 STEPFORD WIVES
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505
1 CINDERELLA STORY
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 ANACONDAS

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS
8066888
1 CONNIE AND CARLA
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 ANACONDAS
4 THE NOTEBOOK
5 THUNDERBIRDS
6 COLLATERAL
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ANACONDAS
9 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
7763055
1 ANACONDAS
2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8294975
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 ANACONDAS
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY BACOOR
(046)4173868
1 THE ALAMO
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 ANACONDAS
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
7 THUNDERBIRDS
8 ANACONDAS

SM CITY DASMA
(046) 4323201-04
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 CINDERELLA STORY
3 STEPFORD WIVES
4 ANACONDAS

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80
1 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
2 GARFIELD
3 BEAUTIFUL LIFE
4 CINDERELLA STORY

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU
(032) 2313876
1 cle linggo ng wika
2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 CINDERELLA STORY
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 THE VILLAGE
6 ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
8 ANACONDAS

SM CITY ILOILO
(033) 3209422
1 GARFIELD
2 RESERVED
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 CINDERELLA STORY
5 THUNDERBIRDS
6 THE VILLAGE
7 RESERVED
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY DAVAO
(082) 2976998
1 ANACONDAS
2 UNINVITED
3 ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
4 THE VILLAGE
5 GARFIELD
6 CINDERELLA STORY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884
1 THE ALAMO
2 STEPFORD WIVES
3 GARFIELD
4 THE VILLAGE

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

1
ANACONDAS

2
THE NOTEBOOK

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

THE EUROPEAN UNION

SM CINEMA
—THE— PODIUM

CINE EUROPA
7
THE BIGGER PICTURE
FREE ADMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2-12
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 6

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FRANCE • GERMANY • ITALY • THE NETHERLANDS
PORTUGAL • SPAIN SWEDEN • UNITED KINGDOM

SMART EPSON

SEPTEMBER 2 • TODAY			
DUTCH THE BLACK METEOR (The Podium Cinema) Invitational only	AUSTRIA ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE Invitational only	PORTUGAL SWEET NIGHTMARE	SWEDEN DEADLINE
8:00pm	8:00pm	7:00pm	9:30pm

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
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ClickTheCity.com
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and 225 for Smart

For Inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1 **PRINCESS DIARIES 2**
12:00, 2:30, 5:00
7:30, 10:20
GP

2 **CONNIE AND CARLA**
11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20
8:40, 11:00
PG-13

3 **ANACONDAS**
11:35, 1:50, 4:05
6:20, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

4 **THE NOTEBOOK**
12:05, 2:35, 5:05
7:35, 10:05
PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LAWS OF ATTRACTION **PG13** 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	**PRINCESS DIARIES 2** **GP** 12:00,2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40	**THE NOTEBOOK** **PG-13** 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10
CONNIE AND CARLA **PG13** 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	**SUPER SIZE ME** **GP** 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	**ANACONDAS** **PG13** 1:20,3:35,5:50,8:05,10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner
Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP
2 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS PG-13
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES PG-13
4 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK PG-13

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) SUPER SIZE ME GP

SUPER CINERAMA
isetann
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4236
1. (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2. THE NOTEBOOK
3. SUGAT
4. ALIEN VS, PREDATO
5. HAMOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 SUGAT
4 (SDDS) HAMOG
5 THUNDERBIRDS
6 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATO
7 (DTS) ANACONDAS
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HAMOG
2 ANACONDAS
3 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 HAMOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ANACONDAS
5 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 SUGAT
2 HAMOG
3 THE NOTEBOOK
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
6 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2 SUGAT

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDS) ANACONDAS
2 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 GOLD (DTS) CONNIE & CARLA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
6 GOLD (SDDS) ANACONDAS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
8 [illegible] NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 [illegible] THE NOTEBOOK
10 [illegible] LAWS OF ATTRACTION

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ANACONDAS
4 (SDDS) JANDARA
5 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 (Dolby) THE NOTEBOOK
7 (Dolby) PRINCESS DIARIES 2

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ANACONDAS
2 NOTEBOOK
3 HAMOG
4

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 (DTS EX) SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 ANACONDAS
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 (DTS) ALONG CAME POLLY

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 CINDERELLA STORY
2 THE VILLAGE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 GARFIELD
2 THE VILLAGE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 (DOLBY) CONNIE & CARLA
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 HAMOG
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 (DTS) ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1
2 (DTS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 DEAD PEOPLE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
2 THE CINDERELLA STORY
3 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ELLA ENCHANTED
2 WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
3 (DOLBY) DEAD PEOPLE
4 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 ANACONDAS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) WILD BUTTERFLY
2 HAMOG
3 COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2 HAMOG
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 TEEN PLAY
5 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 HAMOG
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) DEAD PEOPLE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DEATH CURSE
2 THUNDERBIRD
3 KARELASYON
4 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ANACONDAS
2 SUGAT

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT
TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

BAUTISTA. "The Way You Look at Me —The Repeat"

Christian repeats solo concert

CHRISTIAN Bautista will repeat his first major solo concert after a standing-ovation reception from an SRO crowd last month.

Christian's concert, "The Way You Look at Me—The Repeat," returns to the Music Museum on Sept. 11 at 9 p.m.

One of the brightest of today's rising stars, Christian already has two consecutive hits: the chart-topping "The Way You Look at Me" and "Hands to Heaven." His debut album turned platinum after only four months.

His handsome face graces TV, billboards and print advertisements. His official website gets 1,000 visits a day. His official fan club, Christian Friends, is growing fast.

He is set to go on a US tour, perform in a string of other shows, and will appear in a daily soap very soon.

Christian's success story is one for a "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episode. The tall, dark and handsome baritone first gained prominence as one of the first finalists of ABS-CBN's "Star In A Million," where he was the TV viewers' favorite.

Warner Philippines executive Ricky Ilacad, who had followed the singing contest from day one, immediately got in touch with Christian's managers, Carlo Orosa and Audie Gemora, to offer a recording deal.

"I didn't even have the time to feel sad about losing in 'Star in a Million' because the Warner offer came the day after," says Christian. "The Warner people were having their Christmas party that evening and I was invited. I was asked to sing a Josh Groban song extemporaneously, which didn't really throw me off. What surprised me was when Sir Ricky got up on stage and introduced me as Warner's 'next big star.'

"The next thing I knew, I was in a recording studio rushing an album that was to be released in two months!"

CHRISTIAN/A39

SHOWING TODAY at SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 6

The European Union in cooperation with Mowelfund Film Institute, The Podium & SM Cinemas presents

CINE EUROPA 7: THE BIGGER PICTURE

at 2PM!
YOUNG ADAM
(UNITED KINGDOM)
by David Mackenzie

at 7PM!
BLACK METEOR
(THE NETHERLANDS)
by Guido Pieters

at 4:30PM!
HOP
(BELGUIM)
by Dominic Standaert

at 9:30PM!
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE
(AUSTRIA)
by Hu Mei

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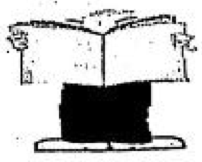

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THE WIVES OF STEPFORD HAVE A SECRET

NICOLE KIDMAN
MATHEW BRODERICK BETTE MIDLER CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
FAITH HILL AND GLENN CLOSE

3RD HIT WEEK!

Glorietta 4 Shangrila SM-Dasmarinas
SM-Pampanga SM Marilao SM Cagayan De Oro
Robinsons-Dasmarinas Robinsons-Fairview
Robinsons-Pampanga Ayala-Cebu
E Mall - Cebu Cineplex-Cebu
Gaisano Cagayan de Oro
LKG - Cagayan de Oro

The Stepford Wives

StepfordWives.com

DreamWorks Pictures

A United International Pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

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MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE

OPENS SEPT. 8

Life is waiting.

Tom Hanks
Catherine Zeta-Jones

The Terminal

www.theterminal-themovie.com

A United International Pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

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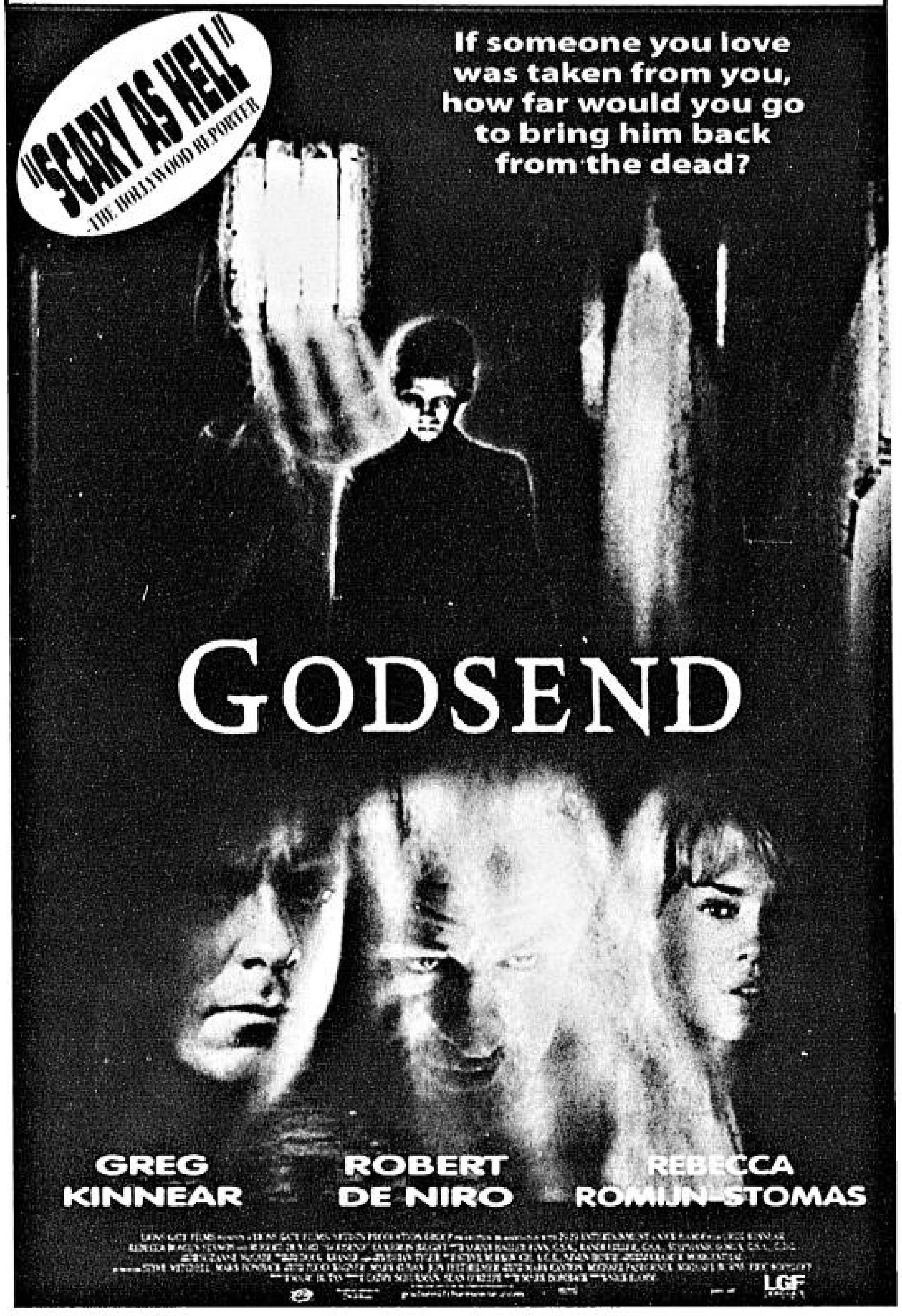
OPENS SEPTEMBER 8

BAWAL MANUOD ANG MGA MAHIHINA ANG SIKMURA
PASISIGAWIN KA MULA SIMULA HANGGANG WAKAS.



If someone you love was taken from you, how far would you go to bring him back from the dead?

GODSEND

GREG KINNEAR
ROBERT DE NIRO
REBECCA ROMIJN-STOMAS

LGF

SM CINEMA

what to watch

comedy

now showing

When you follow your dreams, there's no telling what you'll become.
CONNIE & CARLA

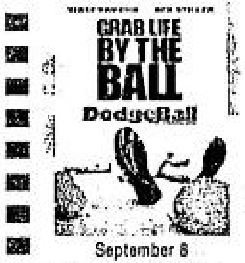
CONNIE AND CARLA

A mob mix-up in Chicago sends two chanteuses screaming for L.A., where they score a perfect gig: posing as drag queens on the dinner theater/cabaret circuit. Things get extra weird when guy falls for one of the girls.

MTRCB Rating: P13

DIAL 8339999 for screening schedules

up next



September 8
Subject to MTRCB Rating

A TERRIFIC DATE MOVIE
13 going on 30

September 15
MTRCB Rating: PG 13

September 29
MTRCB Rating: G

October 13
Subject to MTRCB Rating

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Archbishop of Manila

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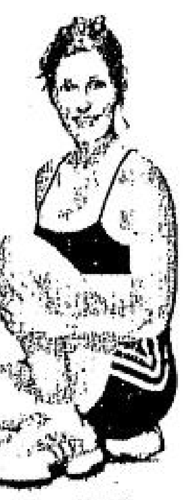
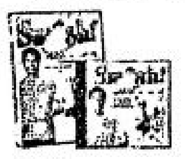
SM APPLIANCE CENTER • SM SUPERMARKET • PUREGOLD • AMERICAN HOME VIDEO • MUSIKLAND • MUSIC NOOK • SPECTRA • RUSTAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE • VVI SHANGRI-LA KIOSK • VVI STA. LUCIA KIOSK and other VIVA VIDEO OUTLETS

WORKING OUT 2
with
JACKIE LOU BLANCO
VIDEO TOUR





SM VIVA

Come and join Slimmers World Ms. Great Body Jackie Lou Blanco as she flexes her muscles and share her secrets to a beautiful body. From warm up exercises, stretchings, workouts, to cool downs, let Jackie Lou Blanco guide you through the fun and easy way to burn calories in "Working Out with Jackie Lou Blanco" video tours. Be in your work out outfit and enjoy lots of health and fitness activities.

GRAND VIDEO LAUNCH
The Podium
Sept. 4, 2004
10am - 7pm

(Back to Back launch of Smash
Badminton for Everyone with Paolo Bediones)

So loosen those joints, and pump up some sweat!
Fitness has never been this fun!

Other Mall Shows:

SM Southmall	Sept. 18, 2004	SM Fairview	Oct. 16, 2004
SM Manila	Oct. 3, 2004	SM Megamall	Nov. 3, 2004
SM North Edsa	Oct 9, 2004		

Be the next fitness authority. Join the search for Mr. and Ms. Viva Body! An inspiring presentation of healthy, athletic and realistic defined physiques by amateur fitness aficionados.

This contest is open to all male and female amateur fitness enthusiasts ages 18- 27 and at least a high school graduate. Height must be at least 5'7 for male and 5'4 for female with pleasing personality and good moral character. Must be in good physical condition and excellent physique with positive view concerning health and fitness lifestyle.

Preliminaries will be held in all video tours of Jackie Lou Blanco. For inquiries, call (02) 687-2130, (02) 687-9231, 687-6181 local 785 and 761.

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Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003

Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Movie	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	ANACONDAS	12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
2	THE NOTEBOOK	12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
3	CONNIE AND CARLA	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4	SUPER SIZE ME	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5	ANACONDAS	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
7	JANDARA	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
9	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
10	THE VILLAGE	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	ANACONDAS	10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
2	SUPER SIZE ME	10:10, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 9:50
3	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
4	THE NOTEBOOK	10:10, 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:15, 10:00
5	CONNIE AND CARLA	10:20, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
7	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
3	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	10:05, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
4	ANACONDAS	12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
5	ANACONDAS	10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
6	THE VILLAGE	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
7	THE NOTEBOOK	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 9:00
8	JANDARA	10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	ANACONDAS	11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00
2	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
3	THE STEPFORD WIVES	11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
5	ANACONDAS	10:30, 12:35, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55
6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35
7	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
8	THE VILLAGE	11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575

1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3	ANACONDAS
4	DECOYS

CAINTA 240-4661

1	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2	JANDARA
3	ANACONDAS
4	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907

1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3	HAMOG
4	DEAD PEOPLE
5	ANACONDAS

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870

1	THUNDERBIRDS
2	DEATH CURSE
3	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
4	KARELASYON
5	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332

1	THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2	HAMOG
3	ANACONDAS
4	A CINDERELLA STORY
5	THE STEPFORD WIVES

STARMILLS San Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270

1	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2	HAMOG
3	THE STEPFORD WIVES
4	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5	ANACONDAS
6	ANACONDAS

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858

1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2	HAMOG
3	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4	ANACONDAS
5	ANACONDAS
6	THUNDERBIRDS

BACOLOD 441-0458/59

1	A CINDERELLA STORY
2	THE VILLAGE
3	THE PRINCE AND ME
4	GARFIELD
5	SYLVIA
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

ILOILO 336-8070/78

1	A CINDERELLA STORY
2	SYLVIA
3	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4	THE VILLAGE
5	MAKAMUNDO
6	THUNDERBIRDS

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AYALA CINEMAS

	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1	THX ANACONDAS	CONNIE & CARLA	CONNIE & CARLA	SUPER SIZE ME	GUARANTEED SEATS THX THE NOTEBOOK 2 50, 5 40, 8 30, 11 20	ANACONDAS
2	THE NOTEBOOK	ANACONDAS	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	ANACONDAS 11:25, 1 30, 3 35, 5 40, 7 45, 9 50	GUARANTEED SEATS THX ANACONDAS 2 40, 4 45, 6 50, 8 55, 11 00	A CINDERELLA STORY
3	CONNIE & CARLA	THE NOTEBOOK	GUARANTEED SEATS THX THE NOTEBOOK 11 10, 2 00, 4 50, 7 40, 10 30		GUARANTEED SEATS LAWS OF ATTRACTION 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	THE STEPFORD WIVES
4	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	THE STEPFORD WIVES		GUARANTEED SEATS PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1 40, 4 00, 6 20, 8 40, 11 00	ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5	PRINCESS DIARIES 2		ALIEN VS. PREDATOR		GUARANTEED SEATS CONNIE & CARLA 2 55, 5 00, 7 05, 9 10, 11 15	THE VILLAGE
6			ANACONDAS			
7			LAWS OF ATTRACTION			

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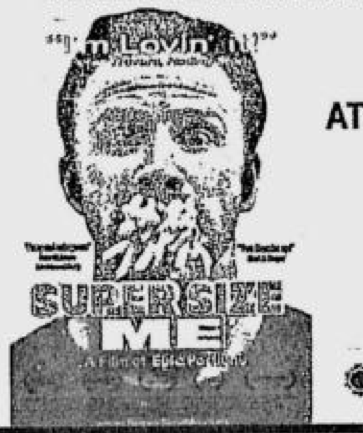
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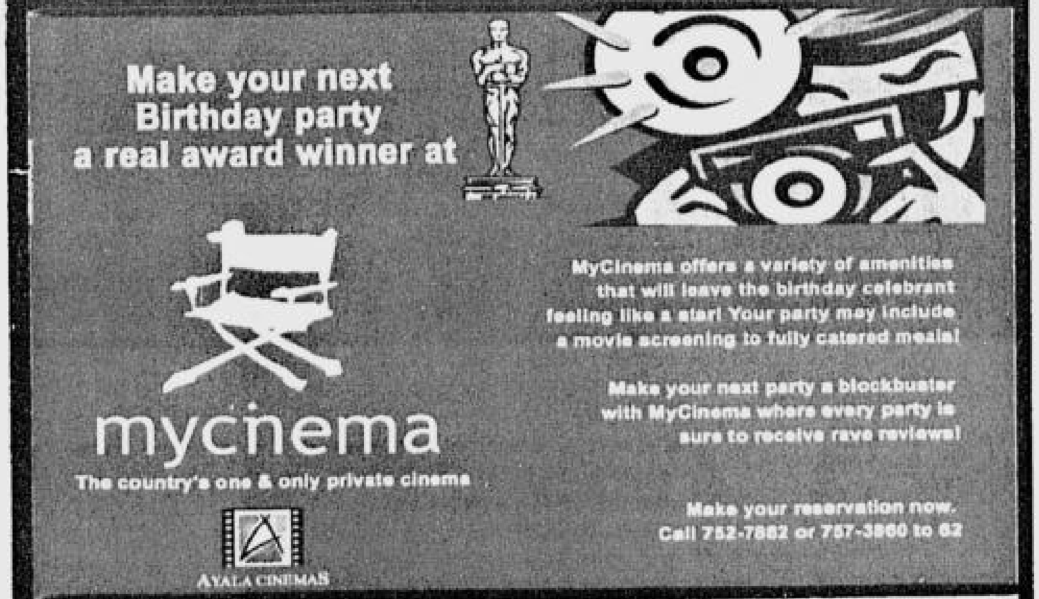
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AYALA MALLS
LoveMall!

Dely sang, danced on...

From page A40

naman,' and then she ate a little."

Villegas said Dely collapsed in her arms on Monday night.

"We tried to revive her," she said. "But I know we had lost her in the taxi cab on our way to the hospital."

Dely was declared dead on arrival at the Parañaque Medical Hospital Monday night.

Good memories

"*Nanay* was a good friend to me," said Villegas. "She was a kind person and was always willing to help others. I've lots of good memories of *Nanay*, but thinking about those memories make me cry."

Villegas said her grandmother was blessed with kind-hearted friends, like Dolphy and actor-TV host Vic Sotto, who both gave financial assistance for Dely's burial.

"We're very thankful for all their help," said Villegas. "They have always been there to take care of *Nanay*'s needs."

Dely's burial is tentatively set Sunday, Sept. 5, in Parañaque City.

She also left behind sister Lulu Molina and granddaughters Aida, Amor, Alma, Armi and Ann Villegas, a former movie actress.

The ex-child superstar who brought...

From page A34

doctor, to send them to college," says Dr. Jao.

Babysitter

The Jaos now live in Valparaiso, Indiana.

"All my kids are now out of the coop," says the proud mother. "But whenever they need a baby sitter, Mama Tessie is always around."

Their children are Marita, 38; Rodman, 37, a Jesuit priest; Roger, 36, a drug company district manager; Roderick, 35; Michelle, 32; Mylene, 31, a planner in the medical field; Rodolfo Jr., 30; Rodney, 29, who is a part-time actor in Hollywood; and Rodel, 25.

Agana says there is nothing from her past that she would want to have back and relive again.

"No, I enjoy my life being just plain Tessie Jao," she claims. "It's normal. There's no fuzz."

She tried a career, working as a medical secretary, after her kids had all grown up. "But I quit because I commuted and it was hard to do," she says. "I was also planning to come here with my husband, so I quit."

She can do movies again, she says, "but I have no plans as of now. I love my life as the wife of Dr. Jao and the mother of his children."

DR. LARRY AT THE PLAZA Playing every Wednesday night at The Plaza at the Penthouse of the Philippine Stock Exchange Center is Dr. Larry Mallari, who dazzles music lovers with his repertoire of love songs, Broadway hits, movie themes and chart-busters of the '70s. Dr. Larry (with The Plaza's Millie Reyes at left) often invites guests to sing with him as he tickles the ivories. Call 687-0991, 687-1262, 631-9653. The Plaza Penthouse is located at the Penthouse, East Tower I, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

Christian repeats solo concert

From page A36

Less than a year later, Christian is a certified hitmaker, and arguably the hottest new male singer in the biz. With bookings lined up till February 2005, he now hardly has time for rest and leisure. What free time he has is used for workouts, derma visits, voice/dance lessons and much needed sleep.

"Now I know first- hand what the Bible says about God blessing exceedingly well," gushes the young singer. "I just try my best to honor Him by working hard, and giving my all."

Christian is rehearsing for the repeat of his successful solo concert. Aptly titled "The Way You Look at Me," the show takes a closer look at Christian, his story and his music.

Christian's guests are the R&B group 17:28 and the yet to be discovered singer Rebekah.

"The Way You Look at Me—The Repeat" is slated at the Music Museum on Sept. 11 at 9 p.m. For ticket inquiries, contact MaxiMedia, 551-7777 or Stages, Christian's management group, at 818-1111 loc. 225.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby	ANACONDAS	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4 :40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
4	SDDS	JANDARA	11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
5	dts	ALIEN vs PREDATOR	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4 :40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6	Dolby	THE NOTEBOOK	11:00 am 1:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1:25 pm 3:55 pm 6:25 pm 8:55 pm

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Sep 11	ATENEO vs FEU
Sep12	UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION
Sep15	JOHN MAXWELL in MANILA
Sep17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep18	WRR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ALYZS BOMBA QUEEN / DI MAPIGIL NA INIT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-61 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT ANACONDAS PRINCESS DIARIES2 STEPFORD WIVES
PREMIERE THEATRE	THE NOTEBOOK

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAT (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-7	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-8	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-12	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-14	JANDARA
CINEMA-15	ALIEN VS PREDATOR

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	VILLAGE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

star group of cinemas movie guide

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- 3 Hamog
- 4 Anacondas
- 5 Alien vs Predator

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- 2 Hamog
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CINEMA 1	PRINCESS DIARIES - 2	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	GP
CINEMA 2	ANACONDAS	10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10	PG13

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September 3, 2004	NOAH'S BIG BOAT	7PM
September 4, 2004	MY SHEREE AMOR	9PM

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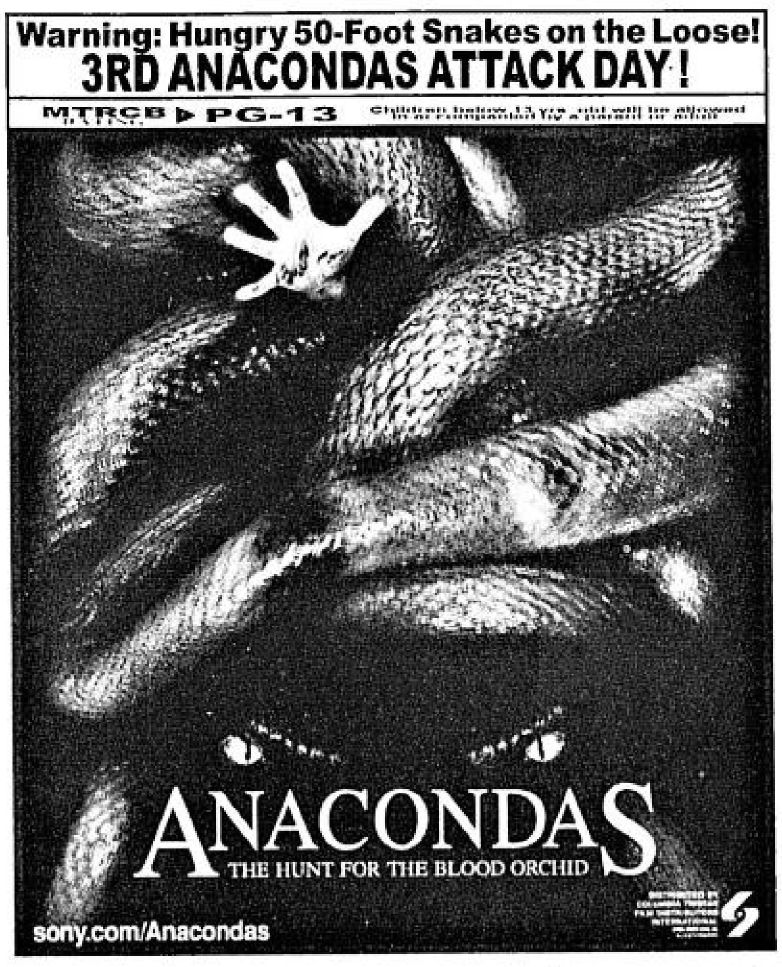

Warning: Hungry 50-Foot Snakes on the Loose!
3RD ANACONDAS ATTACK DAY !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

ANACONDAS
THE HUNT FOR THE BLOOD ORCHID
sony.com/Anacondas

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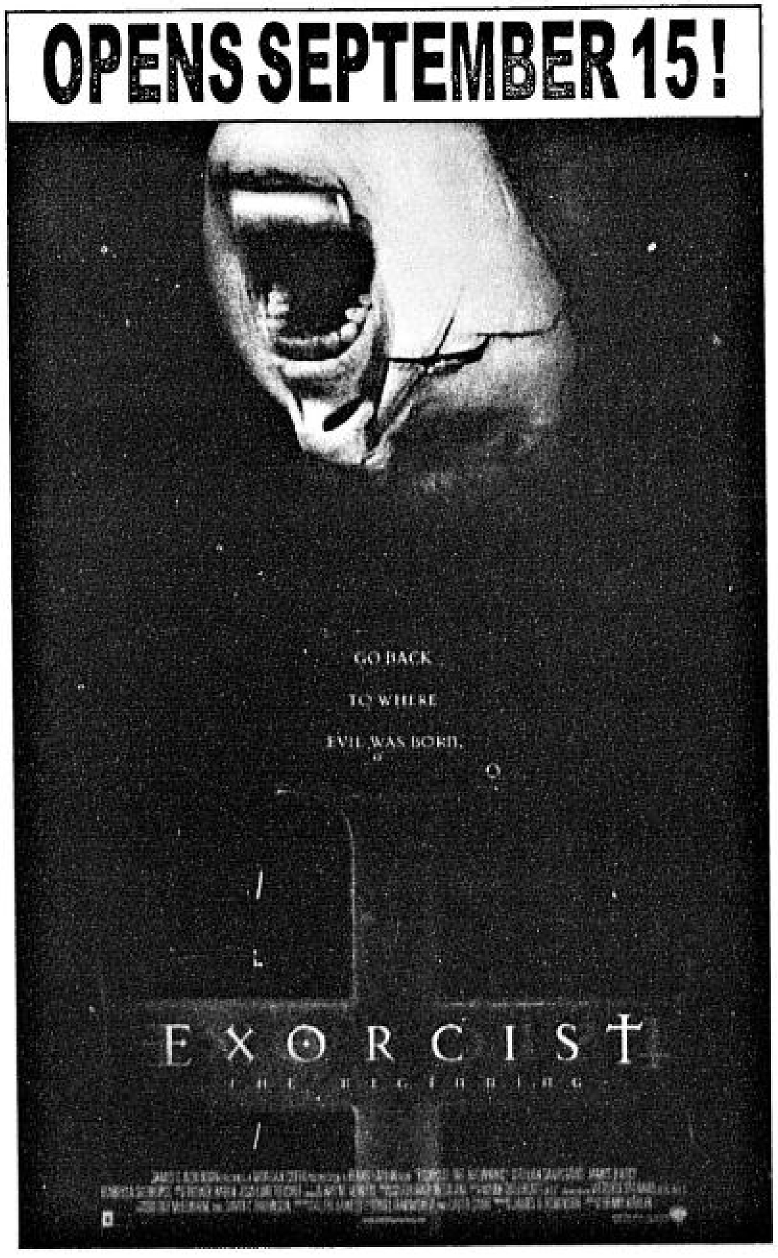
WHOEVER WINS... WE LOSE.

ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

NOW SHOWING



OPENS SEPTEMBER 15!

GO BACK TO WHERE EVIL WAS BORN.

EXORCIST
THE BEGINNING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	FS: 12:25PM, 3:10PM, 5:55PM, LMF: 8:40PM	MTRCB Rating : GP
2	ANACONDAS	FS: 12:50PM, 3:05PM, 5:20PM, 7:35PM, LMF: 9:50PM	MTRCB Rating : PG-13
3	THE STEPFORD WIVES	FS: 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM, LMF: 9:30PM	MTRCB Rating : PG-13
4	THE NOTEBOOK	FS: 12:30PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM, LMF: 8:45PM	MTRCB Rating : PG-13
PREMIERE THEATRE	SUPER SIZE ME	FS: 11:55AM, 2:10PM, 4:25PM, 6:40PM, LMF: 8:55PM	MTRCB Rating : GP

For more information please call 633-2227 / 633-7851 loc. 171

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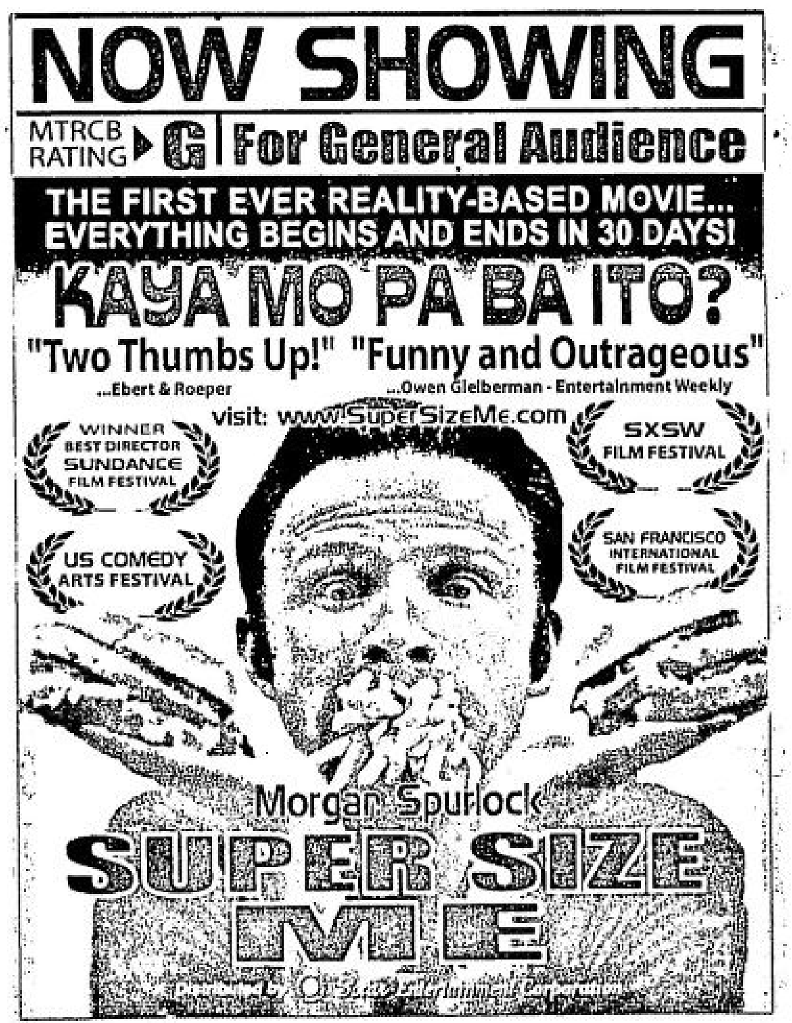

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THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

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Dely sang, danced on her last birthday

By Marinel R. Cruz

FORMER comedian Dely Atay-atayan had wanted to celebrate her 90th birthday last March with all of her loved ones because she felt it would be her last, according to her granddaughter.

Adelaida Fernandez-Villegas, known to TV viewers as John Puruntong's nagging mother-in-law Doña Delilah on "John en Marsha" in the 1970s, died of old age last Monday night. She was born on March 17, 1914.

According to Dely's granddaughter, Aida Villegas, the comedian was "very happy" during her birthday celebration at her home in Parañaque City last March 20. Dely, who had not been able to walk since 2002, "sang and danced at her birthday party," Villegas added.

Dreaming of performing

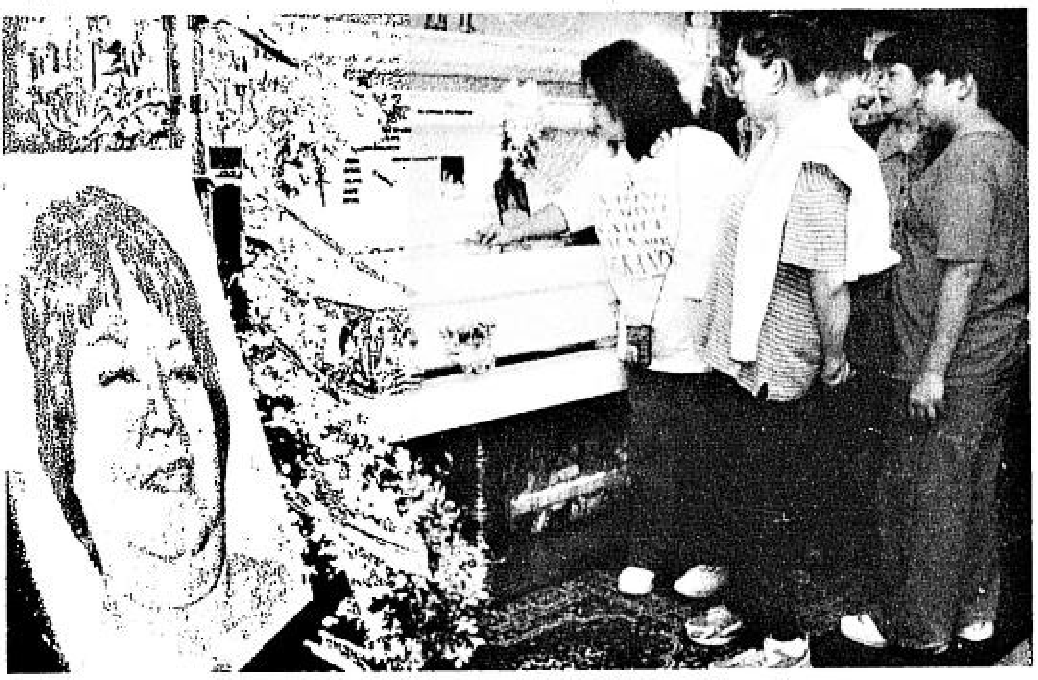
"*Nanay* really loved singing," Villegas, the eldest of the comedian's four grandchildren, said of Dely, at the comedian's wake at the Holy Trinity Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque last Tuesday night. "She could no longer get up, but she was shaking her body to the music."

In an interview with INQUIRER Entertainment in May 2003, Dely had said that she still dreamed of performing as a singer.

"Singing is my true love," she had said. "It paved the way for me to enter show biz. Though I'm having a hard time recalling the lyrics, I'd gladly sing my favorite songs to anyone who'd ask. I love singing too much to ever get tired of it."

Dely, daughter of painter and composer Amado Fernando and singer Carmen Marquez, started her show biz career as a *kundiman* singer at the Palace Theater in Sta. Cruz, Manila. She later toured the country with a *bodabil* troupe from 1930 to 1934.

Villegas said show business was her grandmother's true love. "Her only wish was to never leave show biz, but she lost show biz," said Villegas at Dely's wake. "She really enjoyed doing 'John en Marsha.' I think she started feeling depressed when the sitcom was axed."



"'NANAY' was a kind woman," says one of her grandchildren at her wake. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

WITH Fernando Poe Jr.

On "John en Marsha," TV viewers heard Doña Delilah say her famous punch line ("*Kaya ikaw* John, *magsumikap ka!*") every week for 17 years until 1989. Dely's character was the grandmother of the characters of Maricel Soriano and Rolly Quizon, and mother of the late Nida Blanca's character Marsha.

Last night

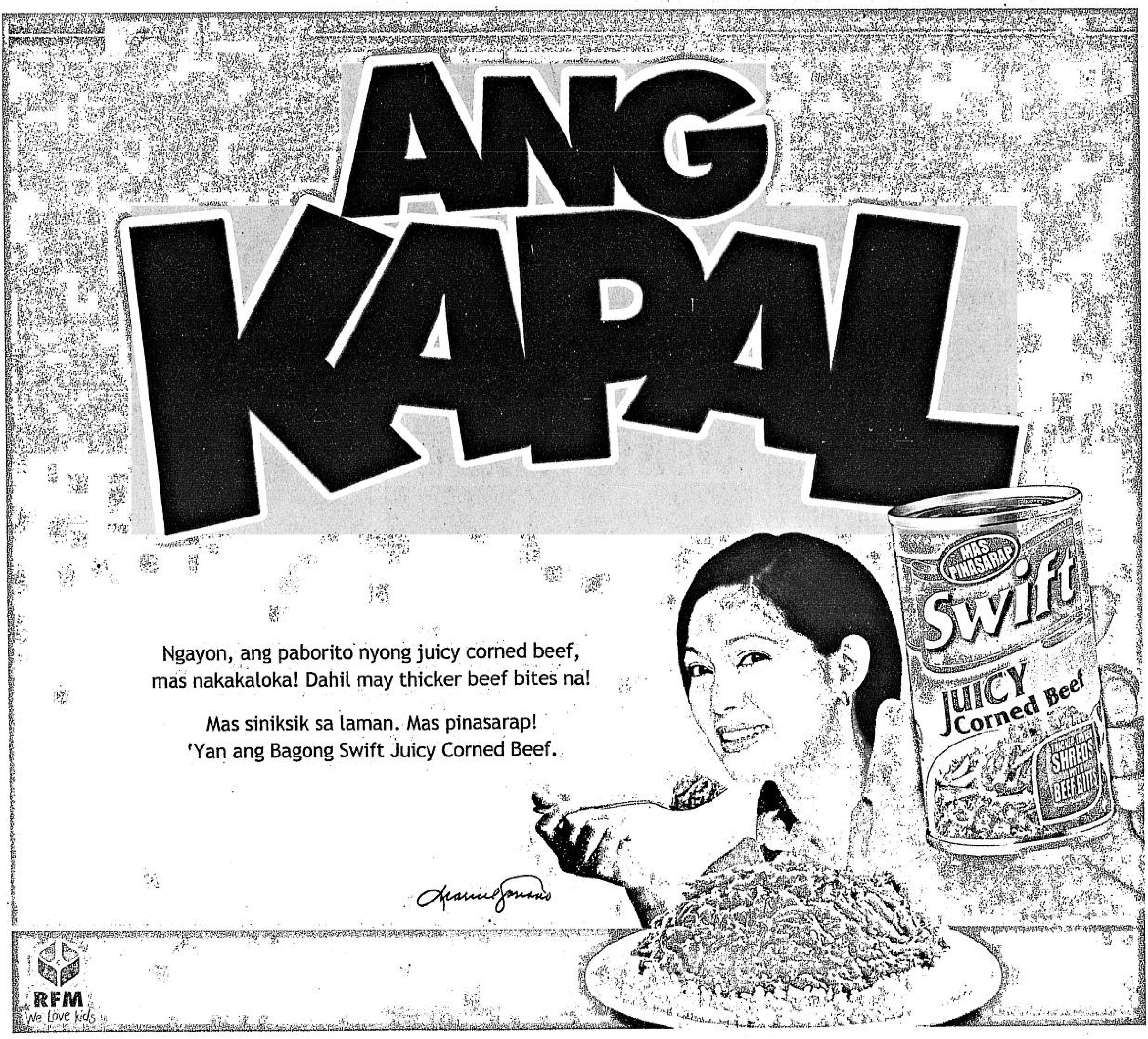
Dely had been living in BF Homes in Parañaque City with granddaughter Amor Quizon since 2002. Quizon is the mother of actor and commercial model Boy 2 Quizon. Boy 2's father, Boy, is the son of comedian Dolphy, the son-in-law Dely loved to nag on "John en Marsha."

Boy 2 was at his great-grandmother's wake Tuesday night, but did not grant any interview with the media.

Villegas said that last Aug. 27, she received a call from Quizon, asking her to come over and check on their grandmother. "*Nanay* had not been eating for three days," said Villegas. "Amor said she was afraid for *Nanay*, who also refused to talk. When I got there, *Nanay* said, '*ang tagal mo*

DELY/ A38

FELLOW COMEDIAN Dolphy (left, in a '60s movie) remained a good friend even after their "John en Marsha" days. Behind them is the late Panchito, another comedian.



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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Stocks up 1.33%, hit 3 ½-yr high

SHARE prices yesterday closed up 1.33 percent at a three-and-a-half-year high as investors snapped up blue-chips, buoyed by good news on austerity measures adopted by the government to head off a fiscal crisis, dealers said.

They also credited positive news from President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to China for the gains.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index was up 21.26 points to 1,614.00 after trading between 1,592.74 and 1,614.55. This was the highest closing level since March 5, 2001 when it closed at 1,616.54 points.

Gainers led losers 55 to 25, while 45 stocks were unchanged.

The volume hit 2.7 billion shares worth P643.4 million, up from 1.14 billion shares worth P928.7 million on Wednesday.

The all-shares index rose 6.40 points at 1,031.09, the commercial-industrials gained 46.01 to 2,596.11, property advanced 2.89 to 528.24, mining was up 11.19 to 1,757.02, oil retreated 0.01 to 1.59 and banking and financial services shed 0.45 to 455.99.

"We expected a test of 1,600 points and since that level is now strongly supported, we saw a gradual rise of the market to test the next resistance level of 1,618 points," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

"I think the improvement in sentiment was triggered by some positive news from the China visit of the president and her announcement of cost-cutting measures to address the government's budget deficit problems," he added.

Arroyo, who is on a three-day trip to China, has announced the forging of new trade agreements even as she ordered a tighter austerity program for government to prevent a fiscal crisis.

Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer of ING Investment Management Co., said he was looking at 1,620 as the next resistance level. "If we break that, it is possible we may hit 1,750 and 1800 by the end of the year."

Garcia said investors had positioned themselves ahead of better than expected corporate earnings in the third and fourth quarter.

Among the sectors expected to outperform others in the third and fourth quarter are the telecom and utility sectors.

Joseph Roxas , president at Eagle Equities Inc., said top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was among the favorites as its prices stayed within a narrow range for quite some time.

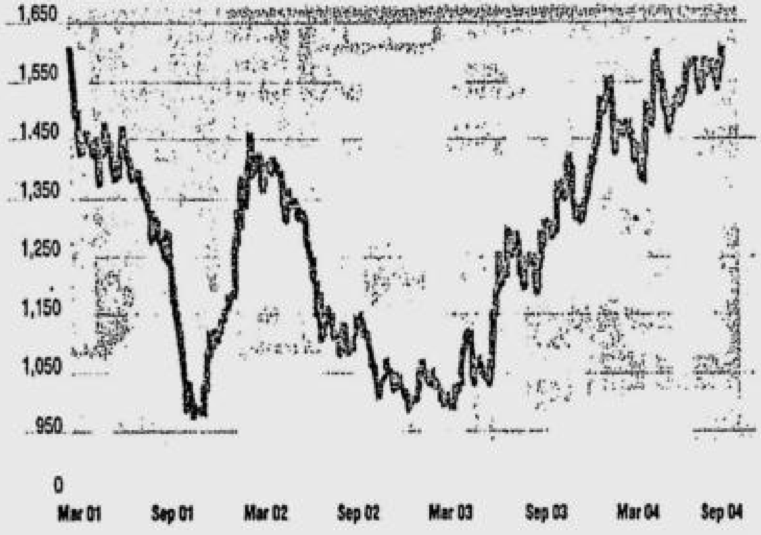
PLDT gained P35 to P1,320 while sister firm Metro Pacific Corp. rose 9 centavos to 44 centavos.

SM Prime Holdings was unchanged at P5.80.

Manila Electic Co. saw its A and B shares both rise by 50 centavos each to P15.50 and P22.25 respectively.

San Miguel Corp. A shares gained 50 centavos to P59 but its B shares were unchanged at P69.50.
AFP and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHISIX
March 5, 2001 to September 2, 2004



RP, China hope for early OK of free trade deal

BEIJING—President Macapagal-Arroyo and Chinese President Hu Jintao expressed hope on Wednesday for the early establishment of a planned free trade zone linking China and 10 Southeast Asian countries.

Meeting with Arroyo on the first day of her three-day visit to China, Hu said he hoped to speed up negotiations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and launch the free-trade pact "on time," state television CCTV said.

Arroyo was quoted by CCTV as saying she believed progress would be made in negotiations, with mutual efforts by China and the Asean, which includes the Philippines.

The planned accord would create the world's biggest free trade zone of nearly two billion people with a combined gross domestic product of $2 trillion by 2010.

Talks had hit a snag with the Southeast Asian countries unable to agree on which products should be included in a basket of goods to be liberalized.

Some of the Asean countries, including the Philippines, were seeking a longer timeframe to bring down tariffs on sensitive farm products.

The impasse threatened to delay an agreement on the chapter covering trade in goods—the first in the negotiations process.

On Wednesday, Hu and Arroyo greeted each other warmly in her first visit since she was re-elected in May.

Calling Arroyo an "old friend of China," Hu praised her for making "very important contributions" to the strengthening of the two countries' ties.

He said Arroyo's choice of China for her first state visit since re-election showed the "great importance" she and her government attached to Sino-Philippines relations.

Hu said the countries should deepen cooperation in agricultural technology, machinery, infrastructure construction and natural resource exploration, according to the Xinhua news agency.

The two sides should also work together to crack down on cross-border crimes more effectively, Hu said.

Arroyo invited Hu to visit the Philippines next year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Xinhua said.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of five agreements on visas, fisheries industry cooperation, tourism cooperation, joint marine seismic undertakings and the North Railway project. No details were given.

Some 120 Philippine entrepreneurs accompanied Arroyo to China. The visit is focused mainly on bilateral trade, which surged 78.7 percent year-on-year to $9.4 billion by 2003.

China last year was the Philippines' sixth largest trading partner, sixth largest source of imports and eighth largest export market.

Before arriving in Beijing, Arroyo made a short tour of southern China's Guangzhou city in Guangdong province, where she told Guangdong Governor Huang Huahua she was hoping to promote trade with the province, Xinhua said.

Prior to Arroyo's visit, a Philippines official said Arroyo would also seek to boost security and political cooperation with China, one of the three countries, including Japan and the United States, which the Arroyo administration acknowledges will shape the future of the Asia Pacific region.

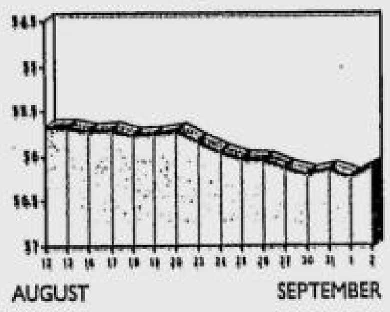
However, the official said he did not know whether the thorny issue of the disputed Spratlys chain of islands in the South China Sea, would be raised.

Arroyo was scheduled to meet China's military chief Jiang Zemin and Premier Wen Jiabao yesterday.
AFP

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 56.125 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2004

Y 109.42 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2004

GOLD: $407.80-408.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 1, 2004

CURRENCIES

September 2, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.820546	1.000000	56.1970
Japan	Yen	0.007493	0.009132	0.5132
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471404	1.793200	100.7725
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105205	0.128213	7.2052
Switzerland	Franc	0.651279	0.793714	44.6043
Canada	Dollar	0.627857	0.765169	43.0002
Singapore	Dollar	0.480949	0.586132	32.9389
Australia	Dollar	0.577402	0.703680	39.5447
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.176632	2.652661	149.0716
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218813	0.266667	14.9859
Brunei	Dollar	0.479543	0.584419	32.8426
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000107	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019734	0.024050	1.3515
UAE	Dirham	0.223412	0.272272	15.3009
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.218700	68.4873
Argentina	Peso	0.273972	0.333890	18.7636
Brazil	Real	0.280528	0.341880	19.2126
Denmark	Kroner	0.134450	0.163854	9.2081
India	Rupee	0.017726	0.021603	1.2140
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215962	0.263193	14.7907
Mexico	New Peso	0.071808	0.087512	4.9179
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539088	0.656987	36.9207
Norway	Kroner	0.119837	0.146045	8.2073
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014003	0.017065	0.9590
South Africa	Rand	0.124297	0.151481	8.5128
Korea	Won	0.000715	0.000871	0.0489
Sweden	Kroner	0.109640	0.133618	7.5089
Syria	Pound	0.015920	0.019402	1.0903
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024241	0.029542	1.6602
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000428	0.000522	0.0293

INTEREST RATES

September 2, 2004-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART 1 2-Sep-04	MART 1 1-Sep-04
1 Month	7.7982	7.7625
3 Months	7.9268	7.9375
6 Months	8.6429	8.7393
1 Year	10.1607	10.1679
2 Years	10.5983	10.6317
3 Years	11.4967	11.5033
4 Years	12.0067	12.0036
5 Years	12.4732	12.4732
7 Years	13.0583	13.065
10 Years	13.4267	13.4467
20 Years	13.55	13.5554
25 Years	13.8286	13.8643

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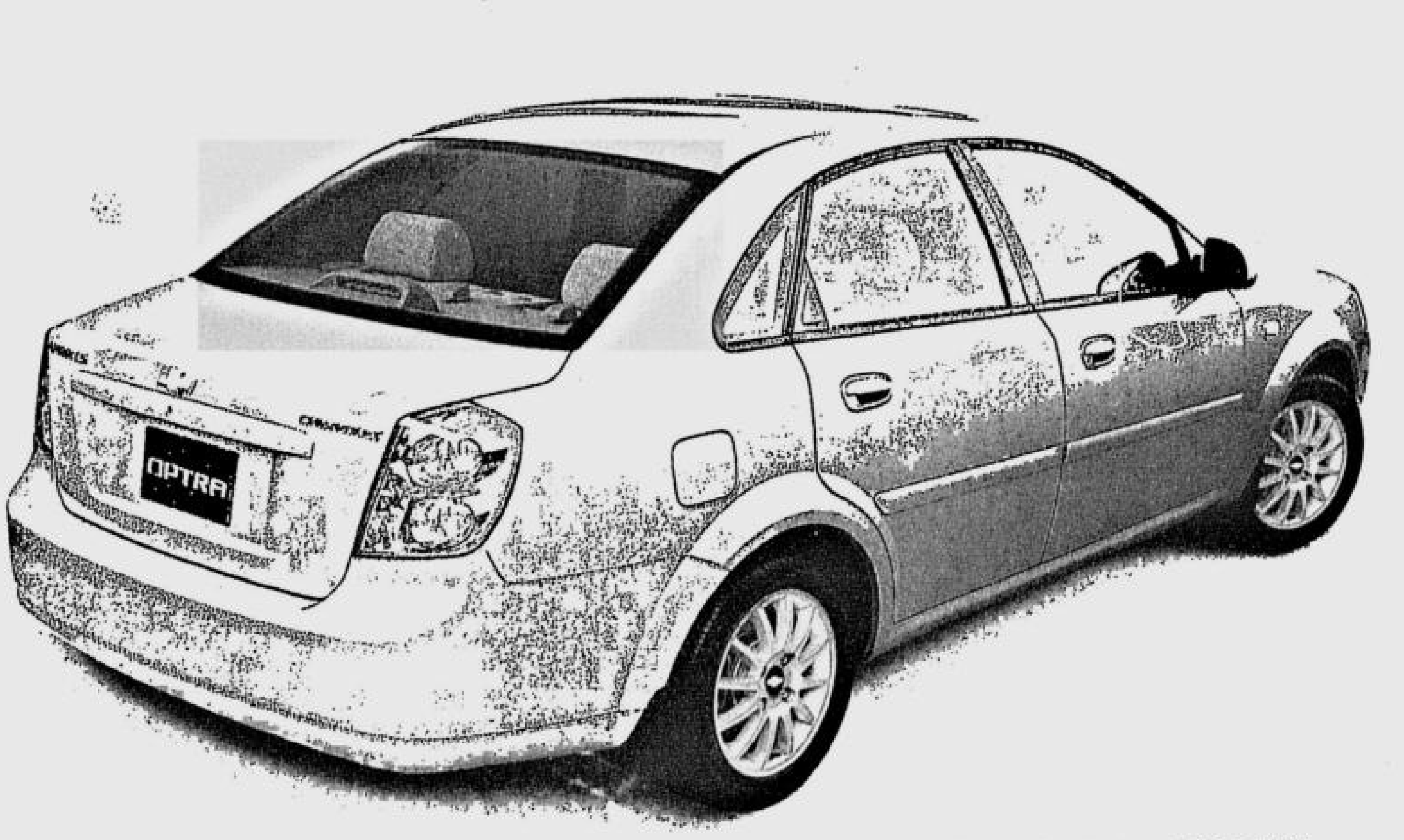

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[illegible] Series of 2004

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SRP P670,000 — MONTHS TO PAY

%DP	DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
15%	100,500	49,067	33,601	26,672	19,159	15,412	13,208
20%	134,000	46,078	31,553	25,047	17,992	14,473	12,403
25%	167,500	43,089	29,505	23,423	16,825	13,535	11,599
30%	201,000	40,100	27,457	21,799	15,658	12,597	10,793
35%	234,500	37,108	25,409	20,175	14,491	11,658	9,988
40%	268,000	34,118	23,361	18,549	13,325	10,719	9,184
45%	301,500	31,128	21,314	16,925	12,158	9,781	8,378
50%	335,000	27,916	19,266	15,101	10,992	8,842	7,574

Chevrolet Optra 1.6 LS A/T

SRP P710,000 — MONTHS TO PAY

%DP	DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
15%	106,500	52,102	35,677	28,319	20,343	16,365	14,025
20%	142,000	48,933	33,509	26,599	19,107	15,370	13,172
25%	177,500	45,768	31,338	24,877	17,870	14,375	12,319
30%	213,000	42,597	29,168	23,158	16,634	13,381	11,466
35%	248,500	39,427	26,998	21,435	15,397	12,386	10,613
40%	284,000	36,260	24,829	19,713	14,161	11,391	9,760
45%	319,500	33,092	22,658	17,992	12,924	10,397	8,907
50%	355,000	29,583	20,490	16,271	11,688	9,402	8,054

Puerto Azul loses 110 hectares

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FINANCIALLY troubled Puerto Azul project has been dealt with another setback.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that over 109.6 hectares within the sprawling mountainous beach-golf resort and country club in Cavite still belong to the public domain.

The high court's Second Division noted that the application of Trinidad Diaz Enriquez to register the property only covered 6,917 square meters, not 1.096 million sq.m. as what subsequently been approved by then Naic, Cavite Regional Trial Court Judge Emerito Agcaoili.

Enriquez, the matriarch of the Marcos crony family who developed the Mediterranean-style resort in the late '70s, claimed she acquired the disputed land in the Ternate and Maragondon towns in 1975, but had it applied for titling only in 1992.

The government, through the Office of the Solicitor General, opposed the application, and so did the original tillers, who claimed the sale had been fraud through "vitiated consent," before subsequently withdrawing their opposition.

The OSG won the case at the Court of Appeals, which reversed the Naic RTC judgment after the matriarch failed to submit any opposition.

Supreme Court Justice Romeo Callejo Jr., the ponente, ruled that Enriquez had lost her party-in-interest status in the appeal when she sold the same land in September 1994 to his son-in-law, Rebecco Panlilio.

Panlilio, now deceased, turned around and sold it a month later to Puerto Azul Land Inc., the property development company also controlled by the family.

The Supreme Court noted that although Puerto Azul Land claimed that the Enriquezes and their employees had occupied the disputed property since 1945, the company could only show a 1985 tax declaration before the 1992 application for registration.

With the Supreme Court reversal, it is not immediately clear how large a chunk would be lopped off from the entire Puerto Azul project.

One count puts the Puerto Azul Beach Resort at 1,024 hectares. Another estimate, although for the Puerto Azul Golf and Country Club, placed the area at 3,300 hectares.

In her book "Teacher to Tycoon" that chronicles the life and times of her mother, Erlinda Enriquez-Panlilio wrote that the family had acquired about 1,000 hectares of land in the area by 1975.

The Enriquez and Panlilio families also developed what is now the Grand Boulevard Hotel in Roxas Boulevard.

No upgrades

THE GOKONGWEIS have escaped being besieged daily by requests for upgrades from friends and politicians.

How? Their Cebu Pacific simply quietly dropped its business-class section about two months ago.

Introduced when it started flying regional in 2001, the "Cebu Class," as the business section was called, will also no longer be featured even in the new Airbus fleet that the Gokongwei airline will gradually be introducing starting in April.

In other words, Cebu Pacific has decided to return to its original vision, a low-fare, mono-class airline favored by overseas contract workers and budget travelers.

The 12 Airbus 319 that Cebu Pacific has acquired can each be configured for a 124-seat, two-class model.

The Gokongweis will instead stretch the plane's seating capacity to 150, at 30" pitch each.

If you think the leg space is already DVT (deep vein thrombosis)-inducing for Asians, Britain's easyJet even managed to squeeze in 156 seats, an extra row, into the same plane.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PROPOSED settlement for the Tambunting inheritance feud involves the two eldest siblings, Teresita Tambunting-Liboro and Jose Tambunting, giving up their claims on their late mother's Antipolo house and the family's Antipolo Memorial Park, in favor of sisters Dely Tambunting-Ongsiako and Mila Tambunting-Puyat, brothers Antonio and Jesus, and the heirs of the late brother, Ramon, who incidentally died childless.

The siblings scheduled the signing of the extra-judicial settlement last Saturday at the Manila Polo Club, but somehow Jesus, the former ambassador who heads the Planters Development Bank, failed to appear.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week August 31, 2004	Last Week August 24, 2004
Bond Fund - Peso	1.14517	1.14732
Managed Fund - Peso	1.20225	1.20027
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0493	1.0452

* Note. These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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AUCTION
AUCTION DATE: SEPT. 5, 2004 (SUNDAY) 10:30 AM
INSPECTION DATE: SEPT. 3 & 4, 2004 from 9:00AM-5:00PM
GENERATORS: AIRMAN 60 KVA SUPER SILENT; DENYO 40 KVA SUPER SILENT;DENYO 25 KVA; DENYO 12.5 KVA ; ISUZU 150 KVA
FURNITURES/ FIXTURES: CONFERENCE TABLES; 50 OFFICE DESK FROM COMMERCIAL BANKS; 80 SETS BED / MATRESS; FILING CABINETS; FIBERGLASS CHAIRS; CANTEEN TABLES; FASTFOOD CHAIRS; SOFA SET
TEXTILES/ BRAND NEW CLOTHINGS: BRANDED T-SHIRTS / BLOUSES; COLORED FABRICS; JAPANESE FABRICS; ITALIAN FABRICS; IMPORTED UPHOLSTERY MATERIALS
ELECTRONICS/ EQUIPMENT: KENWOOD COMPONENTS; SONY COMPONENTS; PIONEER / RAMSA SUBWOOFERS AND SPEAKERS; SECURITY CAMERAS; CABLE WIRES; LCD MONITORS HOME THEATERS
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Gov't plans to scrap sovereign guarantees on GOCC papers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT plans to scrap the automatic guarantees on borrowings enjoyed by some government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), such as the state-run National Power Corp., in a bid to reduce its burgeoning debts and balance the budget by 2009.

This was one of the measures recommended by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee to head off a fiscal crisis, which would be soon presented to the Senate and Malacañang.

"To reduce the GOCC deficit, the DBCC proposes to restore the National Power Corp.'s (NPC) financial health by restructuring NPC tariffs," the DBCC said in a statement yesterday.

The DBCC is mandated to recommend to the President the government's expenses for the year and spending limits for economic and social development, national defense and debt service.

"The DBCC hopes that the implementation of these strategies and activities will address the country's budget and fiscal problems," said Margarita Songco, assistant director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The committee agreed to flesh out the details of these strategies in the next meeting.

It has yet to identify, for instance, which GOCCs would no longer enjoy sovereign guarantees.

Most of the GOCCs that seek funds here or abroad secure sovereign guarantees to make their debt papers more attractive to investors.

The DBCC also pushed for the passage of tax legislative measures, which include:

- Indexation of sin taxes;
- Two-step increase in the expanded value added tax rate;
- Granting of general amnesty with submission of statement of assets, liabilities and net worth;
- Rationalization of fiscal incentives;
- Adjustment of excise tax on petroleum;
- Imposition of tax on telecommunication companies;
- Optimum performance in revenue collection through grants of special incentives and gross income taxation.

The government is hard-pressed to raise revenues as fears were raised that the country was headed for a fiscal crisis as debts have been growing at a faster clip than revenues.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, which accounts for 80 percent of tax collections, yesterday said its tax collections for August had exceeded P41 billion and would likely meet the month's target.

Clarifying an earlier report that said the BIR had missed its P43 billion target in August by 31 percent, Deputy BIR Commissioner Kim Henares said that the agency was on track with its collections, based on preliminary figures.

The agency is supposed to increase its revenues by 12 percent this year to reach the full year target.

From January to July this year, however, collections have increased by only 10.33 percent.

To better manage government spending, the DBCC also called for an efficient expenditure management program and the full implementation of devolved functions following the Local Government Code and related laws.

The DBCC also recommended measures to improve the performance of the country's official development assistance (ODA) and expand public capital formation.

"We need to discuss not just the figures, but the approaches and specific activities to support the revenues we are targeting. We should not only say we want to achieve P38 billion to P50 billion earnings in exports, we need to devise ways to achieve that goal," Songco said.

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DTI sees rising demand for OFWs in Asean, China

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has urged professional service providers to take advantage of rising demand for skilled Filipino workers in the region, particularly in China.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said there were opportunities to send out more professionals and skilled workers as Filipinos were highly qualified for jobs in Southeast Asia.

Aquino added that the country had a commitment with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to send out experts in environmental planning and interior design services.

The official said most land-based overseas Filipino workers deployed within Asean were working in Singapore.

"Myanmar (Burma), Laos and Cambodia are also good areas for Philippine service providers," he added.

Another promising field for professional services was the vast Chinese market, from where the country had received requests for experts in communication, construction, engineering, education, distribution, environment, finance, health, tourism, travel and transport.

Aquino said local service firms should take advantage of regional agreements that provide opportunities for their businesses.

One such pact is the Asean-China Framework Agreement, which sought to establish a "professional exchange" program.

The planned program would promote the use of Asean professional services with priorities on air travel, tourism and e-Asean sectors.

Asean's commitments under the the framework agreement include services supplied across borders such as international telephone calls; services used by consumers and firms from another country such as tourism; services provided through the setting up of operations in a foreign country; and services rendered by consultants who travel to a foreign client.

SSS collections up 15% in H1

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE STATE-OWNED pension fund Social Security System (SSS) might have headed off its own financial crisis.

SSS president and CEO Corazon de la Paz said in a briefing that contribution collections from members rose by 15 percent to P21.6 billion in the first half, exceeding benefit payments for the same period.

De la Paz said it was the first time since 1999 that contributions exceeded payments during the same period, indicating that its financial condition had improved.

"This is a major turnaround and our efforts to intensify collection and streamline our operations are bearing fruit," De la Paz said.

The SSS has fielded more than 300 officers nationwide to intensify collections and help delinquent employers settle their obligations, she added.

Since 1993, the number of SSS retirement pensioners has been increasing at an average rate of 8 percent per year.

As of end 2003, SSS retirees have reached more than 455,000 or about half of the total number of pensioners totaling nearly 1 million, data showed.

This means that the old-age dependency ratio which represents financial support given by paying-members to retiree pensioners has grown to 6.3 percent from 5.4 percent in 2000, contributing to the imbalance between contributions and benefit disbursements.

"At present, only 16 active-paying members are supporting one retiree compared to 19 paying members per retiree back in 2000," SSS vice president or coverage and collection Felipe Cariño reported.

He said SSS needs to intensify coverage and collection to improve its ability to support future benefit payments.

The SSS pensions include disability, retirement, and death with monthly pensions ranging from P1, 000 to more than P14,000, at an average of P2,500.

Since 1980, pensions were increased 19 times at an average of 10 percent without corresponding increase in contribution rates.

"We want to make sure that our members get the right benefits whenever they make a claim," De la Paz said.

To increase its coffers, the SSS had invested some P155 billion in the equities market, real estate, government securities, development loans, housing loans and members' loans.

Business leaders call for Asia-Pacific free trade area

BUSINESS leaders from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's (Apec) 21 member-economies have asked Apec leaders to consider establishing a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).

Roberto Romulo, chair of the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac) Philippines and one of the country's three representatives to Abac, said the grouping hailed the recent progress achieved in the WTO talks in Geneva.

But the advisory group maintains that the multilateral trading system is still of paramount importance and that there is a need to reinvigorate Apec's trade and investment liberalization and facilitation (TILF) agenda.

Proactive

"Unless Apec adopts a much more ambitious and proactive approach to its TILF agenda, it appears unlikely that the 2010 deadline set for developed economies to achieve the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment will be met," Romulo said. "This is a major concern to Abac since it goes to the heart of Apec's credibility as a regional economic cooperation forum."

Abac's Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific proposal calls for a formal process of eliminating border barriers to trade in goods and services by the Bogor deadlines, instead of the current informal and voluntary process.

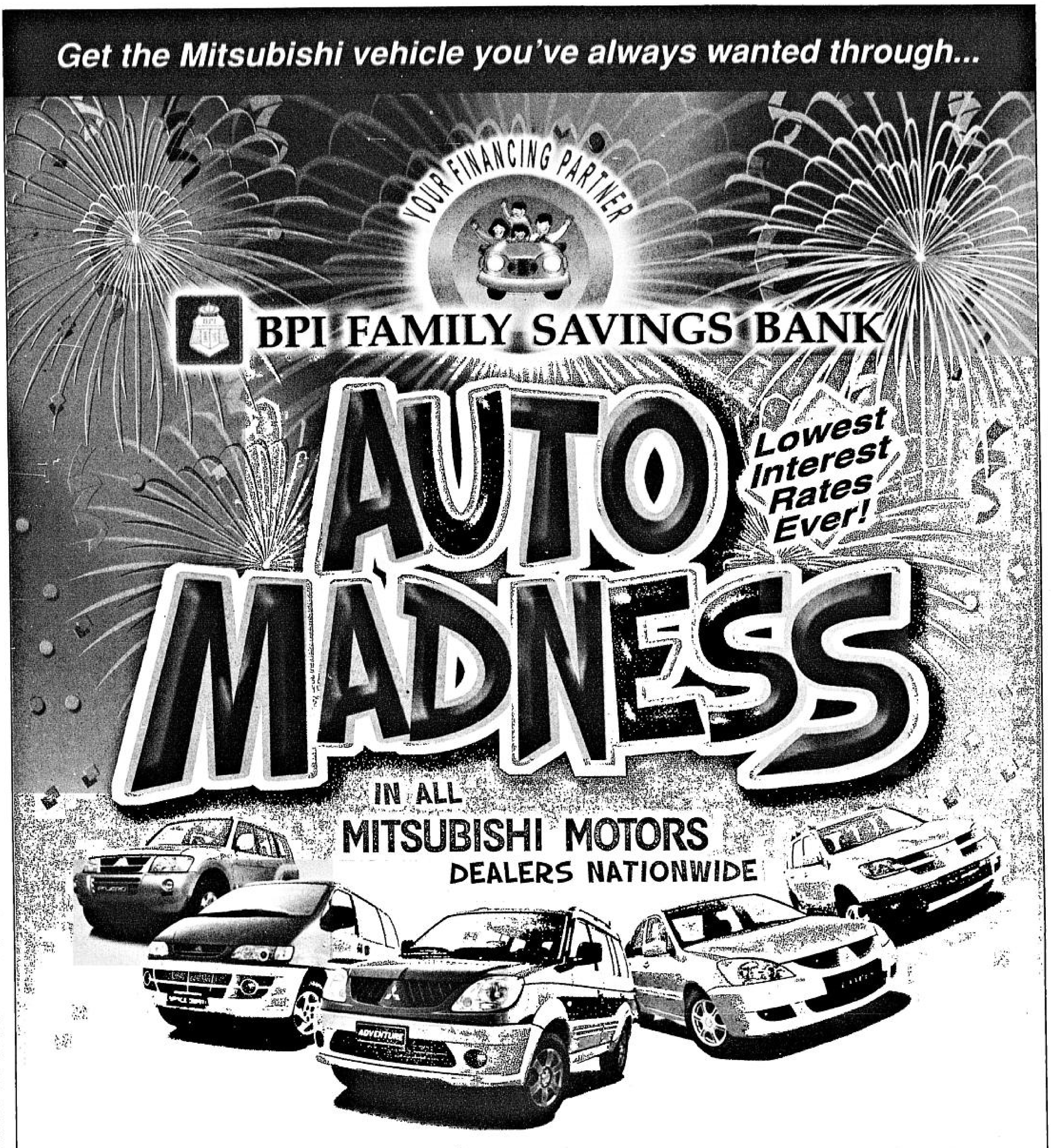
Voluntary

Participation in the FTAAP would be voluntary and would not necessarily involve all Apec economies at the beginning. This is contained in a paper prepared under the auspices of Abac's Trade and Investment Liberalization Working Group (TILFWG), to provide an objective analysis of the FTAAP proposal.

The proliferation of bilateral FTAs creates a host of problems, including increase in transaction cost and inconsistency with the Bogor Goal commitments of Apec economies relating to timelines and comprehensiveness. One example cited is the free trade agreement between Australia and the United States which provide for a transition period of 18 years, or way beyond not only of the Bogor deadline of 2010 for developed economies but also of the 2020 deadline for developing economies.

Obstacles

Romulo said the proposed FTAAP has a "lot of upside to it but more work is needed to explore its pros and cons. As the FTAAP proposal goes against the grain of Apec's voluntary and concerted nature, considerable political obstacles have to be overcome for this proposal to advance. The more one aspires for the ideal FTAAP model, the greater the political will required."



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Low Downpayment

Model	SRP	DP	24	36	48	60	72
2004 Lancer 1.6 GL M/T	658,000	78,700	27,576	19,646	15,755	13,817	12,532
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLX M/T	698,000	64,700	29,252	20,840	16,713	14,057	13,294
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	758,000	68,700	31,767	22,632	18,149	15,917	14,437
2004 Lancer 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	85,700	35,120	25,020	20,065	17,597	15,961
2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesel M/T	675,000	81,250	28,289	20,154	16,162	14,174	12,856
2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gas M/T	700,000	85,000	29,336	20,900	16,760	14,699	13,332
2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel M/T*	740,000	58,000	31,013	22,094	17,718	15,539	14,094
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas M/T	795,000	79,250	33,318	23,737	19,035	16,694	15,142
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	805,000	80,750	33,737	24,035	19,275	16,904	15,332
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas A/T	848,000	107,200	35,539	25,319	20,304	17,807	16,151
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	935,000	105,250	39,185	27,917	22,387	19,634	17,808
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.0 Gas A/T	980,000	127,000	41,071	29,260	23,465	20,579	18,665
2004 Space Gear 2.4 Gas A/T	1,180,000	87,000	48,511	34,561	27,715	24,307	22,254
2004 Outlander 2.4 Gas AWD A/T	1,280,000	77,000	53,643	38,217	30,648	26,879	24,379

Low Downpayment and Low Monthly

Model	SRP	DP	24	36	48	60	72
2004 Lancer 1.6 GL M/T	658,000	319,000	15,294	10,896	8,738	7,663	7,1[illegible]
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLX M/T	698,000	319,000	16,224	11,559	9,269	8,129	7,590
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	758,000	341,000	17,619	12,552	10,066	8,828	8,243
2004 Lancer 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	389,000	19,478	13,877	11,128	9,760	9,113
2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesel M/T**	675,000	337,500	15,701	11,186	8,970	7,867	7,123
2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gas M/T**	700,000	350,000	16,317	11,625	9,323	8,176	7,403
2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel M/T*	740,000	337,000	17,200	12,254	9,827	8,618	8,047
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas M/T	795,000	377,500	18,479	13,165	10,557	9,259	8,645
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	805,000	382,500	18,711	13,330	10,690	9,375	8,754
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas A/T**	848,000	424,000	19,966	14,224	11,407	10,004	9,061
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	935,000	447,500	21,733	15,483	12,416	10,889	10,167
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.0 Gas A/T**	980,000	490,000	23,220	16,543	13,266	11,635	10,540
2004 Space Gear 2.4 Gas A/T**	1,180,000	590,000	24,583***	17,319	13,889	12,181	11,114
2004 Outlander 2.4 Gas AWD A/T	1,280,000	535,000	29,752	21,196	16,998	14,908	13,919

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Smart buying 40% of Meridian

Telco to complete Piltel acquisition by end-September

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. yesterday signed an agreement to purchase 40 percent of Meridian Telekoms Inc., a broadband player controlled by businessman Victor Villavicencio of the Triple-V group.

Smart, the cash-rich subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said it intended to increase its stake in Meridian to 100 percent by the end of next year.

Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto said the company could not disclose the details of the planned transaction, but said any investment in Meridian would be financed with internal funds.

"We can only disclose the pricing after the transaction is completed," said Isberto. "But any investment would come from internally generated funds. Smart has sufficient cash resources."

By the end of the first half, Smart reportedly had free cash of P9.8 billion. The company posted a net income of P11.6 billion in the first half.

The country's largest wireless phone company is also set to complete its acquisition of 92 percent of Pilipino Telephone Corp. from PLDT by the end of the month.

Piltel would hold its stockholders meeting today where the increase in authorized capital to P12.8 billion from P3.5 billion would be ratified. The increase in capital would allow Smart to purchase the common shares of Piltel.

"We hope to close the equity sale of Piltel to Smart on or before Sept. 30," said Manuel Pangilinan, PLDT and Smart chair. "As we speak, Piltel is jointly owned by PLDT and Smart, but by the end of the month, Smart would already own 92 percent. This would set the stage for the consolidation of Piltel's accounts with that of Smart."

Pangilinan said the current 50-50 revenue sharing between Piltel and Smart on Talk 'N Text sales would have to be changed in favor of Piltel so it could take advantage of the expiring tax breaks.

As for Meridian, Isberto said the company would enable Smart to offer a wider range of wireless services to its 16.1 million subscribers as of end-June. Established in 1996, Meridian provides wireless broadband and data services to small- and medium-scale businesses nationwide. The company has a legislative franchise and provisional authorities issued by the National Telecommunications Commission.

Meridian is 40 percent owned by Villavicencio, 20 percent each by Jose Baltazar and Micro-D International Inc. and 10 percent each by Jose Vargas and Luis Abiva, according to documents it submitted to the Board of Investments.

Megaworld to develop Taguig property

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corp. announced that it had acquired the Taguig municipal government's 25-year lease contract to turn a 16-hectare Fort Bonifacio property into an educational center.

Luke Tan, Megaworld investor relations officer, said the company this year would start expanding its McKinley Hill property to include the parcel awarded by the Taguig government. With the additional property, the McKinley Hill project would expand to 50 hectares.

Tan also said the German International School and French International School would be put up on the property.

The properties will be developed as an educational center open to schools offering preschool, primary and college education and will have a sports center, parks and church.

Megaworld has yet to determine the amount it will spend for the project.

In July last year, Megaworld joined forces with food and beverage firm Alliance Global Group for the redevelopment of the 25-hectare Lawton Parkway in Bonifacio Global City, turning it into a mixed use complex called McKinley Hill.

Megaworld earlier said it was setting aside roughly P20 billion in the next four to five years to complete major projects.

The holding company plans to complete a number of high-rise residential developments in Eastwood City in Quezon City by 2008. It aims to finish development of its luxury twin tower Eastwood Excelsior by 2005, residential tower One Orchard Road by 2006, The Grand Eastwood Palazzo in 2007 and Eastwood Parkview by 2008.

Megaworld last week also launched One Central Park in Eastwood, a 38-storey residential structure to be built on top of a four-level mall.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

WPI hits SSS over ₱460-M loan claim

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez
and Christine A. Gaylican

HOTEL operator Waterfront Philippines Inc. (WPI) will contest the Social Security System's loan payment claim, amounting to more than P460 million.

The WPI board still has to receive a copy of the SSS complaint, Arthur Ponsaran, WPI corporate secretary, said in a disclosure.

The SSS in May this year filed a deficiency claim with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to collect P460 million, the outstanding balance arising from a P375-million loan granted to WPI in 1999, sources at the pension fund said.

As of end-August, the outstanding balance swelled to approximately P473 million.

The outstanding balance includes the principal amount plus interest and penalties.

Although the loan would mature in Oct. 29 this year, the SSS reportedly declared WPI in default, accusing it of delinquency in loan payments.

Sources added that while the WPI had paid up to P37 million in trickles from 2000 to 2002, it was not enough to fully update its debt which is considered a violation of the loan terms it entered with the SSS.

"Management was instructed to vigorously contest any such claim as it appears that the same has no valid factual and legal basis," WPI's Ponsaran said.

According to SSS sources, WPI has yet to renegotiate its loan payment.

"Our lawyers are reviewing the claim in order to settle the issue amicably," said Patrick Gregorio, WPI company president. "Hopefully, the loan obligation will be renegotiated to benefit both parties."

Early this year, SSS said it would collect on the WPI loan, after the hotel operator defaulted on interest payments and principal amortizations in 2000 due to a slump in tourism.

SSS and the Gatchalians, the family behind WPI, began negotiations to restructure the loan. The Gatchalian group had proposed to swap property for the debt. A dacion agreement was reached in 2001, but was later rescinded by the SSS after registration requirements in the agreement were not met.

RTC affirms Banco Filipino ruling

THE MAKATI City Regional Trial Court has affirmed its earlier ruling that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is the successor-in-interest of the defunct Central Bank, and denied the motion for reconsideration of the Central Bank Board of Liquidators contesting the RTC's earlier ruling.

In her July 20 ruling, Judge Rebecca R. Mariano of Makati RTC Branch 136 said that there was no reason to change the order of Jan. 27, and affirmed that the BSP should be held accountable in the P18.8-billion damage claim of Banco Filipino.

The damage claims may exceed P100 billion, considering present values and interest charges and the continuing delay caused by the BSP's legal actions, according to lawyer Francis Rivera, BF executive vice president.

The damage claim serves as reparation and restitution to Banco Filipino, after the Central Bank forced its illegal closure in January 1985. The Supreme Court declared the closure illegal, arbitrary and implemented with grave abuse of discretion.

Banco Filipino reopened in July 1994 and subsequently filed an Amended/Supplemental Complaint of three consolidated cases in the Makati RTC seeking payment of at least P18.8 billion in damages.

Paradigm shift in governance

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

IN THE Sept. 1 editorial of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, there was a comment on the role of the private sector in addressing the perennial problem of flooding.

"The most fundamental change ... requires citizens to put an end to the bad habit of passing the buck to government in order to enjoy the self defeating satisfaction of complaining about officials," according to the editorial. "If a big part of a problem is indeed the negligence of government in enforcing regulations and laws, who will regulate the regulators?"

The editorial continued: "The only answer is, the electorate. So what does the electorate intend to do about local and national officials who fail to solve problems that crop up year after year?"

Private sector role

We agree with the editorial. A paradigm shift—from relying completely on government to the private sector sharing in good governance—is long overdue. as in flood prevention, The private sector also has a critical role in preventing smuggling. This is especially true during this time of financial crisis, when at least P80 billion in revenue can be generated just by stopping smuggling.

On Aug. 30, Alyansa Agrikultura leaders pledged to donate cash to the government, following the example of the Silliman University alumni. The leaders said that people would be able to contribute more to government coffers if they would work with government in fighting smuggling.

Background

The significant contribution of the private sector in preventing smuggling has already been demonstrated. From Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 2003, the smuggling rate of refrigerated agricultural container vans decreased significantly from 40 percent to less than 1 percent. This was largely due to the Alyansa leaders' recommended changes in policy, such as the "no redemption, no auction" rule, barring suspected smugglers from getting back their smuggled goods. The goods must either be destroyed or given to the poor. Considering that no smuggler has been jailed in the last ten years, the immediate loss of the goods has proven to be an effective smuggling deterrent.

As for regulating the regulators, the farmer leaders would follow the INQUIRER editorial suggesting the use of the electoral process. However, realizing that this exercise only occurs every three or six years, and acknowledging that the people's will may be subverted through electoral fraud, vote buying, and violence, the farmers have decided to do much more.

They joined anti-smuggling raids and participated in the inspection of the container vans carrying imported goods. The leaders accomplished this with the help of the Presidential Security Group, which acted as an independent check to the Bureau of Customs and Department of Agriculture inspectors.

Recent events

On Aug. 25, two events occurred.

First, the three anti-smuggling bodies that served as effective checks to the Bureau of Customs were abolished. The independent inspection of the container vans was also stopped.

Second, there was a news release that auctions of perishable agricultural goods would be resumed. This would allow the smugglers to once again purchase the goods at below market prices.

On Aug. 27, Customs Commissioner George Jereos reacted by telling the Alyansa leaders that he was misquoted. The correction to this widely circulated report still has to come out. Meanwhile, the smugglers are busy planning more operations, believing that auctions are being allowed again.

At about the same time, it was reported that at least 30 container vans of onions without import permits were released. The BOC showed documents from the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry that initially directed the BOC to hold the shipments. Subsequently, the BPI changed this order.

The Alyansa has asked the agriculture department to investigate this matter. But with the abolition of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Anti-Smuggling (Cocas), this investigation might never be conducted. Without the anti-smuggling body, erring DA officials who allowed the irregular carrot importation for five months might never be identified.

The smuggling incident severely damaged the livelihood of 80,000 Cordillera farmers.

Response

During the last Cocas meeting on Aug. 25, an Alyansa Agrikultura official said that although the body had been abolished, the private sector representatives of the Cabinet committee would continue the regular Wednesday meetings. He said they would invite the same Cocas government representatives to attend the meetings because it is the taxpayers' right to expect government support in the fight against smuggling.

There is an open letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo requesting the restoration of the three anti-smuggling bodies. The Bureau of Customs simply cannot assume some of the functions of these bodies because the bureau does not have the mandate. Examples cited were the unloading of smuggled goods in private ports and visitorial activities in wholesale and retail outlets where the smuggled goods were sold.

If the anti-smuggling bodies are not restored, the private sector anti-smuggling group will continue their Wednesday meetings and ask for support from the government agencies concerned. This group will also monitor the agencies' performance and report the findings to their constituencies. This will be done for electoral purposes, as the INQUIRER editorial suggests.

It is time we have a paradigm shift in governance. This shift is being demonstrated by the private sector which has taken the initiative in the effort to curb smuggling. It is hoped that the private sector will be applied in other areas of governance today.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 2, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	16.75	17	34,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41	82,600
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	7,490
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	37,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	150,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.75	25.5	24.75	25	91,500
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	800
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	21	21	500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,000
Bankard Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2300	2305	2300	2305	1,190
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	121,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1530	1530	1530	1530	5,180
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20.25	20	20	13,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	50,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	875	895	875	895	28,380
Ipeople Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	41,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	2,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	1,200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.19	0.16	0.19	280,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.5	2.6	8,404,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.245	0.27	0.245	0.27	760,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1300	1325	1295	1320	173,240
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.65	3,130,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15.5	15	15.5	19,300
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22.25	21.75	22.25	1,887,100
Petron Corp.	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.8	4,134,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	1,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	350,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	125,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.3	639,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.41	0.37	0.4	2,380,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.5	0.56	0.5	0.56	600,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	14,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.04	2.04	1.96	1.96	552,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	300,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	25.5	366,800
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.8	0.74	0.78	290,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	290,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	59	58	59	133,200
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69.5	69	69.5	9,800
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	11	11	11	11	100,000
Universal Robina Corp.	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	237,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	19,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.005	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	5,553,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	80,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	100,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.029	0.027	0.027	18,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	527,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	37,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	30,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	25	25	25	25	41,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.53	0.49	0.52	16,420,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	610,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	16,260,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.135	0.165	0.13	0.135	37,050,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.08	2	2.02	4,318,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.034	0.035	0.034	0.035	18,400,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.5	3.55	25,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	24.75	26	24.75	26	377,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	13,200,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.18	2.08	2.12	1,049,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	2,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.14	2,533,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.44	0.35	0.44	242,330,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	18,340,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	190,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.145	0.185	0.145	0.17	10,440,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.42	1,020,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	2,440,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	630,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.78	1.84	1.78	1.8	468,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.04	1.04	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.085	0.0775	0.0775	22,100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.69	0.69	1,310,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	140,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	5,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	750,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	72,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	11	11	11	11	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	8,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	1,551,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	3,210,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.16	0.165	0.15	0.15	4,700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	10,540,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	3,460,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.41	0.46	0.41	0.45	2,950,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	100,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.08	4,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	7,175,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0055	0.0048	0.005	179,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3	3	3	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.012	0.013	0.011	0.013	463,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	212,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.0042	0.0038	0.0042	922,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	9,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	250,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.012	0.01	0.012	98,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	58,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	14,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	480,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	90,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.012	0.0095	0.012	174,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	30,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	5,100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	140,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	593,060	22,788,010.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	541,243,620	542,898,880.00
PRO	37,836,000	59,419,300.00
Mining	1,788,030,000	14,224,650.00
OIL	349,840,000	3,788,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	2,717,542,680	643,119,240.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	455.99	DOWN 0.45
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,596.11	UP 46.01
PRO	528.24	UP 2.89
Mining	1,757.02	UP 11.19
OIL	1.59	DOWN 0.01
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,031.09	UP 6.40
Composite	1,614.00	UP 21.26

NO. OF ADVANCES: 55, NO. OF DECLINES: 25, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES 125, NO. OF TRADES: 3,982

DISCLOSURES

FIL-Estate Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 23, 8:30 a.m. at the Garden Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Record date is on Aug. 22.

* * *

A. SORIANO Corp.'s 175,000 shares were bought by its wholly owned subsidiary, Anscor Consolidated Corp.

* * *

JAMES Go, **JG Summit Holdings Inc.**'s director, chair and chief executive officer bought a total of 818,000 common shares of the company last Aug. 25 and 27. His present shareholdings now total over 197.4 million shares.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Realty and Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 29, 4 p.m. at the Ballroom A of The Plaza Penthouse, Philippine Stock Exchange, East Tower, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 15 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

SOUTHEAST Asia Cement Holdings Inc. (CMT) clarified that aside from the proposed acquisition of Continental Operating Corp. by Republic Cement Corp. of which CMT owns 26.76 percent, the company is not aware of any information to explain the 50 percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.08 to P0.12 each.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 17, 10 a.m. at the Fontain Room of Mandarin Oriental, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of Aug. 17 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
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Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

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ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Cell 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid
Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071
Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

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(612) 9723537
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(632) 9150180

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MALE 09173249921

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE
11A Kamias QC 4350978

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RICA REFLEX 09196174327

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

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•Wizard Massage 4213197•

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LANGUAGES P1,950/8930449

LIGHT 5301315 / 5268216

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DIRECT MAIDS YAYA COOK 7269060

A'A MAIDS W/ NBI 4386920

All around maids,cook,yaya 8957507

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

BEST MAIDS YAYA COOK LABA 842-9807 / 772-4213

BestmaidA/A Ya2 w/NBI 4547542

EZ HOME AGENCY 8234243

Good Maid Yaya Driver 4214652

GOOD MAID YAYA COOK LABA 853-3505 853-3504

GOOD MAIDS YAYA BOY DRIVER MIDWIFE 757-2089 / 728-4093

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MAIDS YAYA COOK LABA 912-4706 • 912-4701

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QUALITY MAIDS 421-3828

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

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L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MALABON

2sty 6BR 6bth Goldendale Village Tenejeros Malabon 242-4714

MANILA

SINGALONG MANILA BnewTwnhse/3sty/3br/3tb/maid's rm 1-2 grge P3.990M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

QUEZON CITY

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RIZAL

1STY 100SQM 1.5M 2855129

CAVITE

P650K L-11 Blk-6 Regatta- West Subd, Bucandala-3, Imus 4 BR/ 2T&B Call (0922)803-2895

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

CONDO UNITS RFO!
NR D'Fort & Mktl, 10% Move In 2BR 16K/mon. 0918-9384927

Mktl Prime City Condo 2BR FF 1.6M Neg 09178114261

MANILA

MALATE MLA
2BR, 3BR, PNTHSE 3YRS TO PAY NO INT T(0918)9132396

SN ANDRES MANILA BnewTwnhse/3sty/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse/3sty/3br/2-2 1/2tb/ grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Bnew, RFO, 1, 2 & 3Bdrms, 2.3M Up, Cash / Term, 09192189817

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P1.5M 5YRS TO PAY No Interest Move-In 9126976

SAN JUAN

P/HSE CONDO 4SALE / RENT ROYALVIEW Nr. G/HILLS 0920RSGHOME • 531-1384

Quadrillion Mansion N. Domingo 1BR condo 69.26m² 4121825

APARTMENT

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CONCRETE 2UNITS APT. BLDG 3BR / Unit on 486 sqm Lot Balusong, Matina, Davao City 6M Contact Davao Bert 300-8499

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Near Arauillo St 400m² P20T per sqm 7213127 / 5326487

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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QUEZON CITY

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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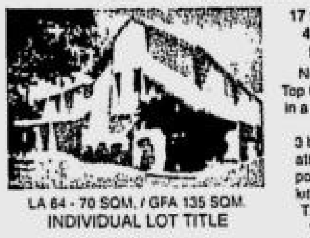

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OTHER PROVINCIAL

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LOT

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MAKATI

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APARTMENT

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SAN JUAN

BRND NEW APT NR WILSON 7261930 • 7001798

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OTHER REAL ESTATE

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REALTORS/SEMINAR

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OTHER CAR BRANDS

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

CAP/PRUD PLANS GIE 7800106

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EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE
Province: Davao del Norte
City/Municipality: Tagum

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that JANET COLOMA-TABANGCURA has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from JANET PILAR to JANET in the birth certificate of JANET PILAR FRANCISCO COLOMA who was born on October 12, 1964 at MALATE, MANILA and whose parents are GERARDO DOMINGO COLOMA and GERTRUDIS MARCOS FRANCISCO.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than *September 10, 2004.*

(Sgd.) FLORDELIZA J. ZULUETA
City Civil Registrar

(PDI--Aug 27 & Sept. 3, 2004)

LCR FORM 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that LONNIE LEE A. MANGUBAT has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from MAE to LOUDEE MAE in the Certificate of Live Birth of MAE GARCIA AVILES who was born on February 27, 1973 at Makilala, Cotabato.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than September 6, 2004

(Sgd.) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI – Sept. 3 & 10, 2004)

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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15th Philippine Travel Mart starts today

THE COUNTRY'S much-awaited international tourism expo starts today (Friday, Sept. 3) at the Megatrade Halls 1 and 2 of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, with newly appointed Tourism Secretary Roberto "Ace" Durano invited as guest of honor and keynote speaker.

Leading in the ribbon-cutting rites are PTM organizing committee chair Leo Picaso, secretary general Celine Clemente, advisory board members Emil Garchitorena, Liela Salgado and Christopher Alegre III, and deputy secretary generals John Paul Cabalza for travel fair, Yvonne Pascual for special events, Joebert Cocjin for finance, Brenda Consul for business prospects, and Roberto L. Castro Jr. for sponsorship.

Picaso will deliver the welcome remarks, and PTM Foundation president Eddie Nuque the brief message on how PTM has evolved into a private sector-led international event.

They will usher the members of the global tourism industry in a tour of the PTM exhibits, showcasing the country's finest destinations, facilities, products and packages.

These will be spiced up with exciting raffle draws and colorful cultural performances. At the same time, Philippine Airlines will offer a 50-percent discount on its domestic flights during the expo's three-day run.

Beginning at 1 p.m., Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Noemi Saludo will welcome local and foreign investors to a tourism investment seminar.

In between raffle draws are other special events.

Sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Pagcor, Philippine Tourism Authority, Philippine Airlines, WG&A, and Air Philippines, the 15th PTM is supported by the DoT and the PCVC.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region I
San Juan, La Union

NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH MARKET DETERMINED PRICING (SMDP)

SMDP Bulletin No. 2004-H-01

The National Food Authority Regional Office I, San Juan, La Union invites all interested NFA licensed grains businessmen to participate in the Sale Through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) 14,149 bags Local RMO and 28,809 bags TGER 32 more or less, stored at the different warehouses in the provinces of Ilocos Sur, and Western Pangasinan.

PROVINCE	VOLUME(BAGS) RMO	TGER 32	WAREHOUSE LOCATION
ILOCOS SUR	0	2,053	Candon Whse, Candon, Ilocos Sur
	0	500	FLGC Whse, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur
SUB-TOTAL	0	2,553	
WEST PANG	232	0	Kazenbar Whse 2, Tebeng, Dagupan City
	5,449	683	Kazenbar Whse 3, Tebeng, Dagupan City
	3,476	3,422	Kazenbar Whse 4, Tebeng, Dagupan City
	4,992	-	Ferrer Whse I, Dagupan City
	0	22,151	Alaminos GID, Alaminos, Pangasinan
SUB-TOTAL	14,149	26,256	
TOTAL	14,149	28,809	

The indicative price for both variety is set at P15.00 per kilogram.
Sale shall be for the **whole lot**, ex-warehouse, "as-is, where-is" basis. Offerors shall be required to post a bid bond in the form of either cash, manager's or cashier's check payable to NFA equivalent to the following:

CLASSIFICATION	CAPITALIZATION	BID BOND
Small and Medium GB's	Up to P100,000.00	5% of bid amount
Big	More than P100,000.00	10% of bid amount

Interested parties should submit the following documents to the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC):

1. Authenticated photo copy of NFA license/registration
2. Duly Notarized authorization from the owner/chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the company as an official/employee and is authorized to represent the company in the SMDP and other activities pertinent therein.
3. Certification from the concerned Registration and Licensing Office where the participant is registered as to the capitalization bracket (Small – P 20,000.00 Medium – P20,001.00 to P100,000.00 and Big – more than P100,000.00).

The SMDP will be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, Second Floor, NFA Regional Office, San Juan, La Union on the following schedules:

Activities	Date	Time
Issuance of Invitation to Bid and Tender Forms	August 30, 2004 to September 7, 2004	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
	September 8, 2004	8:00 – 9:00 AM
Pre-Sale Conference	September 8, 2004	10:00 AM
SMDP Proper	September 8, 2004	Immediately after Pre-Sale Conference or at the time the Committee declares

The SMDP Terms and Conditions and Tender Forms can be secured from the RBAC Secretariat at the venue specified above after paying a non-refundable fee of P300.00 per participant.

Further details and inquiries maybe addressed to the Operations Sections with telephone numbers (072) 242-5907; 242-5909 and 700-2579.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the NFA. The decision of the Committee as confirmed by the undersigned shall be final.

(Sgd.) **DANILO L. BONABON**
Regional Director

(PDI – August 31 & September 3, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

SENTRONG SIGLA
Health ang una!

August 30, 2004

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 167 s. 2004

SUBJECT : Repeal of Administrative Order No. 5, series of 2001 re; GAMCA Medical Referral Decking System

WHEREAS the Executive Board of Health Ministers Council for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States, i.e , Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE and Bahrain decided to establish a centralized medical referral decking system to address the proliferation" of fake medical certificates, existence of rebates that grossly affect the integrity of the medical testing done, and the need to protect their constituents from being infected by communicable diseases that may be carried by GCC-bound Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) The "referral decking system" is said to have currently being practiced in six countries (excluding the Philippines) all over the world:

WHEREAS The Gulf Cooperation Council Accredited Medical Clinics Association (GAMCA) was organized in compliance with a letter dated November 11, 1999 from the Executive Board of Health Ministers Council for GCC, urging the creation of a body which will maintain a central referral office for the medical examinations of Filipino applicants for employment in the GCC States;

WHEREAS the Department of Health (DOH), taking into consideration the objective of the GAMCA referral decking system, precipitately issued Administrative Order No. 5, series of 2001, dated March 8, 2001,

WHEREAS, Administrative Order No 106. series of 2002, dated April 26, 2002 was subsequently issued by the DOH suspending the implementation of the GAMCA referral decking system, pending receipt of communication of notices to concerned embassies;

WHEREAS despite the issuance of Administrative Order No. 106, series of 2002, there are reports of the implementation of the GAMCA referral decking, system. For workers bound for Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman it has been reported that GAMCA member clinics refuse to accept workers bound for these countries for their medical examinations unless they are referred by the GAMCA central office;

WHEREAS, His Excellency Mohammed Ameeh Wali. Ambassador, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, has expressed his country's concerns on the integrity of medical examinations, falsified documents vital to the processing of applications by OFWs;

WHEREAS, DOH issued Administrative Order No. 159, series of 2004, dated July 16, 2004, reiterating the continued suspension of the GAMCA referral decking system:

WHEREAS after a series of dialogues with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), concerned embassies and parties, AO No. 5, series of 2001, was re-examined and re-evaluated by the DOH, taking into consideration several concerns and issues raised by various parties affected by the said Order;

WHEREAS, after a meticulous and deliberate study, examination, and consultation about the GAMCA referral decking system, the DOH believes that its mandate is to protect and promote the health of the Filipino people by ensuring the rights to safe and quality health service and reliable medical examination results through the stricter regulation of medical clinics and other health facilities, which the referral decking system neither assures nor guarantees;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing, the DOH hereby withdraws, repeals and/or revokes Administrative Order No. 5, series of 2001 concerning the referral decking system. Hence, all other administrative issuances, bureau circulars, and memoranda related to AO No. 5, series of 2001, are hereby withdrawn, repealed and/ revoked accordingly.

This Order shall take effect upon publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary of Health

(PDI – September 3, 2004)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGION IV
Balagtas, Batangas City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority in Region IV, with its official address at Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City, is inviting all interested sack manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of brand new white polypropylene plastic sack containers for palay and rice as indicated below:

Lot No.	Type	Quantity (pieces) (More or Less)	Approved Budget for the Contract ABC	Schedule of Delivery
1	Palay (PPRE50)	790,000	P7,110,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 200,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004 300,000 on or before Oct. 29, 2004 140,000 on or before Nov. 05, 2004
2	Rice (PPMG50)	420,000	P2,940,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 150,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004 120,000 on or before Oct. 29, 2004
3	Rice (PPMG50)	210,000	P1,470,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 60,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004
4	Palay (PPRE50)	1,290,000	P11,610,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 200,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004 300,000 on or before Oct. 29, 2004 300,000 on or before Nov. 05, 2004 340,000 on or before Nov. 12, 2004
5	Rice (PPMG50)	705,000	P4,935,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 150,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004 200,000 on or before Oct. 29, 2004 205,000 on or before Nov. 05, 2004
6	Palay (PPRE50)	180,000	P1,620,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 130,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004
7	Rice (PPMG50)	100,000	P700,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 50,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004
8	Rice (PPMG50)	300,000	P2,100,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 150,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004

Summary of Bidding Procedures:

The Bidding shall be governed by RA 9184. A single stage Three Envelope System of evaluation will be adopted. Envelope A shall contain the eligibility requirements, Envelope B shall contain the Technical Proposal and Envelope C shall contain the Financial Proposal. As specified in the Instruction to Bidders, each envelope will be evaluated consecutively using a non-discretionary "Pass" or "Fail" criteria. Only those bidders who complied with all the requirements in Envelope A shall be declared "Passed" and shall proceed with the opening of Envelope B. Only those bidders whose envelopes A and B were declared "Passed" shall proceed to the next phase which is the opening of Envelope C containing the accomplished and signed Bid Form.

Bids will be ranked from lowest to highest to determine the lowest calculated bid. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall undergo post-qualification by the BAC to verify, the validate and ascertain statements made and authenticate documents submitted in the eligibility requirements. After which, bidder shall be declared "Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid" and shall be recommended for awarding of the contract.

Schedule of Activities as follows:

Activity	Date/s	Time
Issuance of Bidding Documents	Aug. 28-Sept. 7, 2004	Mon.-Fri. 8.00 AM-5:00 PM
Pre-Bidding Conference	Sept. 9, 2004	10:00 AM
Deadline for Submission of Bids	Sept. 22, 2004	12:00 NN
Opening of Bids	Sept. 22, 2004	1:30 PM

Venue shall be at NFA Region IV Conference Room, Balagtas, Batangas City.

Bid documents can be obtained from the Region IV RBAC secretariat after paying a non-refundable, non-transferable fee of P2,000.00. For further inquiries, you may call the undersigned at the following numbers: (043) 723-3325 and (043) 402-1678.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS. TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR INFORMALITIES FOUND THEREIN AND ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH, IN ITS JUDGMENT, ARE MOST REASONABLE AND ADVANTAGEOUS TO NFA. THE DECISION OF THE RBAC, AS CONFIRMED BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SHALL BE DEEMED FINAL.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN S. RIMANDO**
Assistant Regional Director
and RBAC Chairman

(PDI – August 28 & September 3, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
Regional Office 8
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Region 8, invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the ground floor of the People's Center and Library located at Real St., Tacloban City as venue for "CHRISTMAS BAZAAR" trade exhibit from November 15, 2004 to January 15, 2005.

The bidding guidelines will be available at PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones St., Tacloban City, starting September 6, 2004. For inquiries, please contact Mr. Alfredo dela Paz at Telephone Nos. 726-0034 and 725-6958 and Mr. Renor O. Dauag at Telephone No. (053) 321-3413.

Pre-qualification requirements should be submitted on or before September 15, 2004, while bids will be received, opened and tabulated at 10:00 A.M. on September 20, 2004 in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) **RENOR O. DAUAG**
Officer-In-Charge
PCGG, Region 8
Tacloban City

(PDI-Sept. 3, 4 & 5, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metro Cotabato Water District invites interested parties to submit sealed bids (2 envelopes) for public bidding for the Supply and Delivery of materials for the Proposed Pipeline Project (Phase II), Tamontaka-Timaco, with an approved budget of Php. 5,394,585.00 for the following:

1. Various sizes of uPVC Pipes & fittings
2. Various sizes of Cement-Lined Steel Pipes & Fittings
3. Various sizes of C.I. Fittings, Galvanized Bolts, & Gaskets.
4. Fire Hydrant Heads & Valves.

Interested parties may secure Bid Documents and Detailed Specifications during office hours at Metro Cotabato Water District, Governor Gutierrez Avenue, Cotabato City.

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	**September 06 to 15, 2004**
Opening/Submission of bids	**September 22, 2004**

The MCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the MCWD. The MCWD likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL D. MAGDAEL**
Chairperson
Bids & Awards Committee

Aug. 27 & Sept. 03, 2004)

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An Evening with Jose Mari Chan with special guest Anna Fegi

NBC TENT Fort Bonifacio Global City Taguig M.M. 24 September 2004 8:00 P.M.

This concert is a charity project for Don Bosco Technical Institute Manpower Skills and Training Center

Ticket Price: VIP P2,000 Patron P1,000

For ticket reservations call:
Alma, 889-3427 / 889-4573 or email: inasibug@yahoo.com

Tickets are available at major National Bookstore Branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate, Galleria, Pampanga, Cavite), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills), Ayala Center Inc. Greenbelt 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby, Glorietta 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby and on the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph Call 891-9999 for inquiries and reservations.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

In view of the cancellation of the scheduled public auction sale last 25 August 2004 due to bad weather, sealed bids for the sale of one (1) lot of unserviceable properties stored at NPO Pier, Port Area, Manila and COMELEC Main Office, Postigo St., Intramuros, Manila, shall be received at New COMELEC Session Hall, 8th Floor, Palacio del Governador, Intramuros, Manila at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, 09 September 2004 at which date, time and place, said sealed bids shall be opened in the presence of the Disposal Committee, COA Resident Auditor or his representative/s, attending bidders and the public. Bids shall be signed by the bidders enclosed in a sealed envelope.

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bidder's Bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid offer, in the form of cash or manager's check/cashier's check payable to the "Commission on Elections."

The Commission on Elections reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive any defect thereon, without need of explanation.

02 September 2004.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JAIME Z. PAZ**
Chairman
Disposal Committee

(PDI – September 3, 2004)

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MANUEL L. VILLANUEVA

"Manolo"

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 1, 2004 at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Lucy**; children **Chito** and **Marilu**, **Joe** and **Edith**, **Mavis** and **Willie**, **Loy**, **Analou**, **Jake** and **Ria**; grandchildren **Manolet** (†), **Trina**, **Anton**, **Andrew**, **Lissy** and **Monty**, **Guilly** and **Sharon**, **Erika**, **Joanna**, **Timmy**, **Carlo**, **Marianna**; great grandchildren **Bianca** and **Tavin**; sisters **Nori**, **Therese** and **Baby**; in-laws, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Santuario de San Antonio at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 5, 2004.

Cremation will follow at the La Funeraria Paz Crematorium.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Inaanak, Inc. will be highly appreciated.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

LUZ BANZON MAGSAYSAY

July 25, 1915 – August 17, 2004

wish to thank you for being with us
in our time of bereavement,
for the prayers
and messages of sympathy,
for the beautiful flowers
and for your generous donations.

All of these we shall cherish
as we keep her in our hearts always.

We Lovingly Remember

ON THE THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DEAR "DADDY"

AGAPITO G. TAGAYSAY

who peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 4, 2001

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Saturday, September 4, 2004 at the following churches:

Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Mandaluyong City	6:00 a.m.	
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows Ave., Q.C.	6:00 a.m.	
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Libis, Q.C.	6:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.	
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Project 4, Q.C.	6:30 p.m.	
Cenacle Retreat House, Loyola Heights, Q.C.	6:30 am.	
Sta. Maria della Strada, Katipunan Rd., Q.C.	6:00 a.m.	
Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Cubao, Q.C.	6:00 a.m.	
St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.	6:30 p.m.	
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 a.m.	
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	7:00 a.m	
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (EDSA Shrine)	6:00 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.	
Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez, Sr., Q.C.	6:30 a.m.	
Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Philamlife Homes, Q.C.	6:30 a.m.	
Santuario de San Antonio Friary, Forbes Park, Makati	12:15 p.m.	
Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, Guadalupe, Makati	6:00 a.m.	
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, SAV, Makati	7:00 a.m.	
St. Stanislaus Kostka Chapel, Ateneo H.S. Dept., Q.C.	7:40 a.m.	Sept. 3
Holy Family Chapel, Eastwood City, Libis, Q.C.	12:15 p.m.	
Ateneo Professional Schools Chapel, Rockwell Center	7:00 a.m.	
Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned, Mandaluyong City	4:30 a.m.	
Shrine of Our Lady of the Abandoned, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila	8:00 a.m.	
Sta. Cruz Parish Church, Sta. Cruz, Manila	5:00 p.m.	
Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran	6:45 a.m.	
Parish of St. Paul the First Hermit, San Pablo, Laguna	6:15 a.m.	
San Isidro Labrador Church, Kabankalan City, Negros Occ.	6:00 a.m.	Sept. 3
San Sebastian Cathedral, Bacolod City, Negros Occ.	7:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.	
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Jaro, Iloilo City	6:00 a.m.	
St. Anthony de Padua Church, West Orange, N.J., U.S.A.	9:00 a.m.	
St. Dorothy Church, Glendora, Ca., U.S.A.	8:20 a.m.	

We, his children request relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

"One thing
I ask of the
Lord; this
I seek: to
dwell in the
Lord's house
all the days
of my life..."
Psalm 27:4

ZENAIDA BRAGANZA ARENAS

Has joined her husband ***Atty. Napoleon A. Arenas, Sr.*** *and peacefully rests in the eternal presence of our Lord on August 29, 2004 at the age of 73.*

Her loving children:
Engr. Alfred B. Arenas and wife **Chona Lualhati-Arenas**. Grandchildren: **Aviel Claude**, **Georgia Ann** and **Alfred Gerald**.

Atty. Napoleon B. Arenas Jr. and wife **Geraldine Layug-Arenas**. Grandchildren: **Justine Marie** and **Christine Marie**.

Dr. Alexis Mary Arenas-Chuson and husband **Narciso C. Chuson, Jr.** Grandchildren: **Adam Clarence**, **Adam Chino** and **Zerinea Clare**.

Her remains lie in state at their residence located at Corner Burgos-Bonifacio Sts., Dagupan City.

Interment will be on September 5, 2004 at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Dagupan City immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Eternal Garden's Chapel.

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*"Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon her,
may she rest in peace."*

Elisa Ongkiko Pamatmat

of Sta. Cruz, Laguna & Merville, Parañaque City

Peacefully died in the Grace of our Lord on August 28, 2004 at the age of 80.

Her loving son **Ariel Vera**; daughter-in-law **Anne**; only grandson **David**; sisters **Thelma** (†), **Aurora** & **Fe**; brothers **Cito** (†), **Pedring** (†), **Hector**, **Peping** & **Benny** (†); sister-in-law **Nene**, nephews & nieces, other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains lie in state at the Resurrection Chapel of Our Lady of Beautiful Love Church, Merville, Parañaque. Final Mass will be on Sunday, September 5, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City, Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
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DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
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Tels 2812963 2813034 2810522
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9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels 646-1725 or 646-1730
Branch: Gulinang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal, Tels 649-5949; 942-4460
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M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels 642-3010; 633-3802
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187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
885 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City, Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
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FUNERARIA SAMSON
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BUSINESS

DTI tightens watch on market scales

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AS RISING cost of raw materials will start reflecting on prices of basic goods this month, the Department of Trade and Industry has stepped up its monitoring and enforcement efforts to ensure that consumers would not be cheated by retailers and vendors using fraudulent weighing scales and other measuring devices.

Also, industrialist Raul Concepcion yesterday said the public would begin feeling the effects of the uptrend in prices that started in the second quarter.

"Prices of agricultural and basic goods have gone up slightly," said Concepcion, head of the private-sector Consumer and Oil Price Watch (COPW). "I believe this is part of the effort to (implement) price increases in small dosages."

The hikes will be felt particularly in processed and manufactured goods, which are dependent on raw materials like steel, aluminum, copper, urea, and plastic-based and oil-based materials.

"Prices of these inputs have gone up at a range of 40 percent to 80 percent compared to levels from a year ago," said the COPW chair. "There is nothing we can do about this. Manufacturers can hold off only so much costs."

Concepcion was referring to efforts of business groups to temper price increases.

He added that prices were going up because of the need for the market to reflect true costs of goods and services.

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry show that, during the past month, prices of most products rose by less than the 10-percent level considered reasonable.

Products whose prices went up beyond the comfort level include a brand of canned sardines from P8 to P9 each; cabbage from P30 to P50 a kilo; and tomatoes from P35 to P40 a kilo.

The DTI reported that the price of tin cans increased from P2.10 to P3.30 due to high price of imported tin plates, which went up from $480 a ton in 2002 to $1,000 a ton this year. Costs of packaging materials also increased by 45 percent for tin plate and 8 percent for cartons.

However, the agency said supply and retail prices of basic needs and prime commodities such as rice, sugar, pork, chicken, instant noodles, detergent and laundry bars, toilet soap and flour have remained stable.

HPI eyes profit of up to ₱700M

TAGAYTAY property developer Highlands Prime Inc. of the SM Group is expecting to generate revenues of more than P700 million from new projects, HPI president Antonio Henson said.

Henson said it was likely that the company would double its earnings this year from the P44 million generated the previous year.

To date HPI's projects continue to yield high real estate sales. As of June 2004, net revenues reached P231 million. Net income for the first six months meanwhile is pegged at P62 million.

The company will soon launch its low-rise condominium unit at the Tagaytay Midlands called the Horizon. It offers a panoramic view of the Midlands golf course, Mt. Makiling and Taal Lake and volcano. Other projects in the pipeline include an extension of its condominium property called the Woodridge overlooking the Highlands golf course, single-detached homes and a Japanese inspired village, all in Tagaytay Highlands.

Highlands said it recently sold P1 billion worth of condominium units in its Tagaytay Highlands project.

The immediate asset base of HPI consisted of over 502.5 hectares of land and 25 completed residential units and developed lots in inventory. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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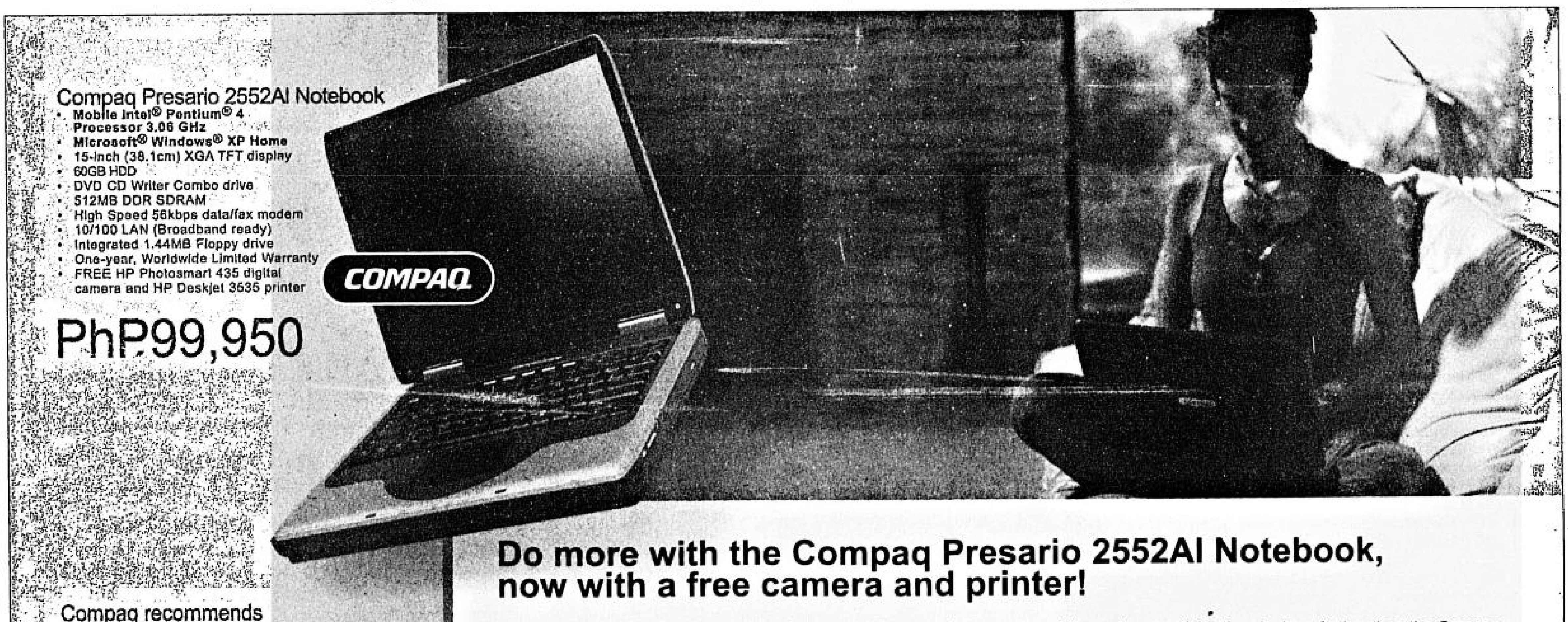
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Cash in on a white gold called coconut

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

COCONUT farmers are sitting on valuable white gold, the kind that is not worn around the finger.

And Paulo P. Mamangun Jr., president of the Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association Philippines Inc., has made it his mission to get as many of these coconut farmers to find the mother lode.

Mamangun tells Business Friday that for an investment of just P120,000, coconut farmers could put up their own community-based cold press and cash in on the escalating demand for virgin coconut oil.

The P120,00 investment covers a grater, two presses and containers for processing the meat from carefully selected matured nuts.

It also includes the basic training for farmers to learn the proper way of extracting oil from coconuts to maintain the "virgin" quality.

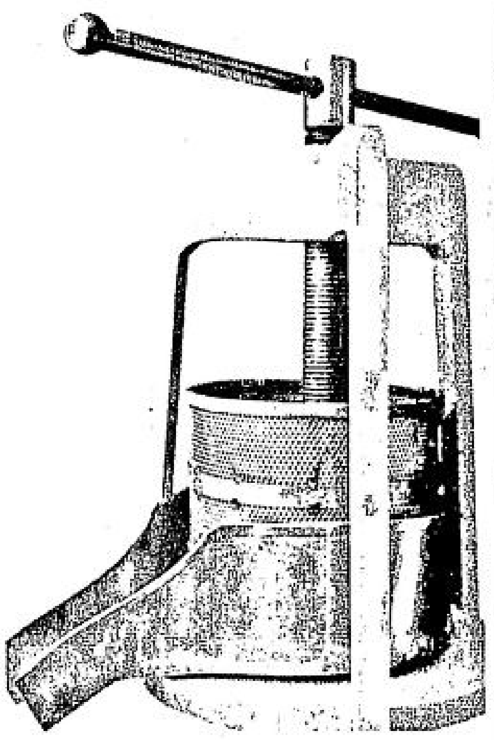
Mamangun developed these equipment based on his personal research and experiments conducted since 1983.

Mamangun favors the cold press method as it does not subject the coconut meat to heat, thus, does not alter the health benefits of the oil.

In its natural state, coconut oil is edible and upon further processing, could be processed into cosmetic products.

And also because it is not subjected to heat, the oil does not turn rancid easily.

Mamangun says under the right conditions, the oil could be kept for as long as three years without losing its health and cosmetic benefits. Producers particularly want to preserve the lauric acid found in virgin coconut oil, which has been proven to be a good antibiotic and antiviral agent.



FOR an investment of P120,000, coconut farmers could put up their own community-based cold press and cash in on the escalating demand for virgin coconut oil.

It is the same acid that is found in mother's milk, thus, giving it its antimicrobial properties and ability to protect the body's immune system.

The oil also packs in Vitamins A, C

CASH/ B2-2

To win awards, RP ads should use less jingles

By Margie Quimpo -Espino

EVER wondered why the Philippines, a country rich with creative people, has not won a Clio award (Oscars of advertising)?

The head of DDB Asia, one of the largest advertising agency networks in the world, has an interesting theory: Filipinos like jingles in ads. And these are not easy to judge.

"You have a lot of sing-song (jingles) here. Its difficult to win awards with that," says Aaron Lau, who is also DDB's president and CEO of Greater China.

Jingles however are crucial in most ads because the prime source of information of the country is still radio thus agencies need to create campaigns with more sounds than visuals. (Analysts point Mar Roxas and Pia Cayetano won seats in the senate because of their very catchy jingles.)

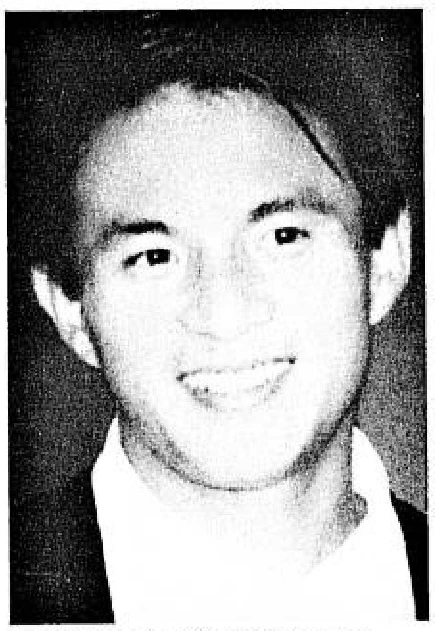
Some creative directors of advertising agencies raise another point why RP does not win any award—clients always insist on traditional, safe ads, which are usually unexciting and not out of the box.

Lau says if you look at the creativity in Asia, Hong Kong was lording it during the '70s and early '80s. Singapore also did well into the '90s.

But the Philippines, which basically follows the style of the more developed economies is losing out.

Lau says Thailand today is the most creative based on the international awards the country has been getting.

"Thailand is becoming the most creative because they have their own culture and way of doing things," says Lau.



LAU: You have a lot of sing-song.

He adds the Philippines lagged behind in the advertising industry compared with its neighbors.

"Advertising is a derivative of economic and cultural development. Advertising follows the stock market and the overall business situation—if the economy is not doing well, then advertising follows. But there is a lag of three to six months before the industry feels the impact of the economic situation."

A slow economy generally means a lethargic advertising industry. Firms opt for non-traditional promotional activities. This lessens the opportunities to execute creativity in ads.

On the other hand, The World Trade Center tragedy and the Enron debacle prompted advertising agencies worldwide to review cost structures and create leaner businesses.

Agencies looked at their clients' needs more deeply and provide for their needs by a 360 degree discipline. This means integrated marketing—traditional, non-traditional and other means.

Lau notices they have a lot of retail clients (Robinson's, Lhuiller) and he says this requires going into non-traditional forms of advertising like events organizing.

On media outlets, Lau says there is fragmentation. "People are watching less TV now. TV then becomes less efficient."

Lau seems his "job as chief human resource and marketing officer of DDB."

He says he does not look over his people's shoulders and emphasizes the opportunities within the DDB family. When dealing with regional campaigns various creative people are called from different countries to create a pool of talents that will draw up the ads.

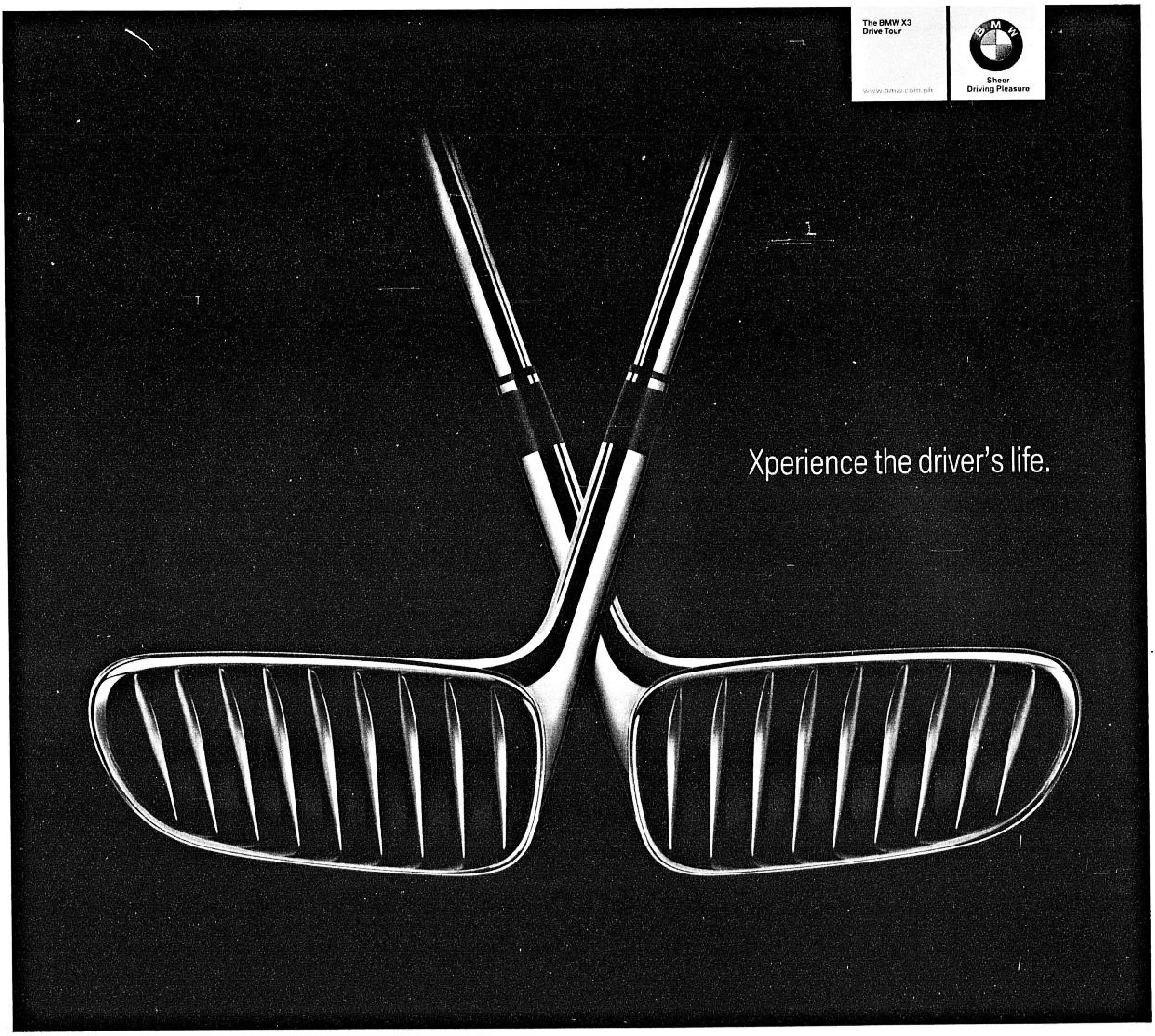
At the same time, there are career opportunities within the organization. If there are vacancies in other countries, these are opened to their worldwide network.

DDB's business in the Philippines is 85 percent local and 15 percent regional which Lau says creates opportunities to put in more international business in the Philippines.

"A growing economy attracts the attention of global clients," he says.

Its biggest client in the Philippines is Smart Communications Inc. with a budget of over P1 billion for advertising.

DDB has 206 offices in 96 countries. It was founded on June 1, 1949 by Ned Doyle, Maxwell Dane and William Bernback as Doyle, Dane and Bernbach. In 1986, it merged with Needham Harper Worldwide to form DDB Needham Worldwide, and in 1999 simplified its name to DDB Worldwide.



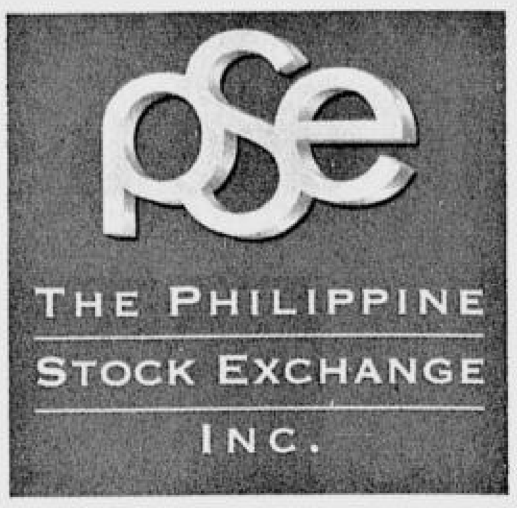
PSE hopes new logo will change its luck

By Elizabeth Sanchez

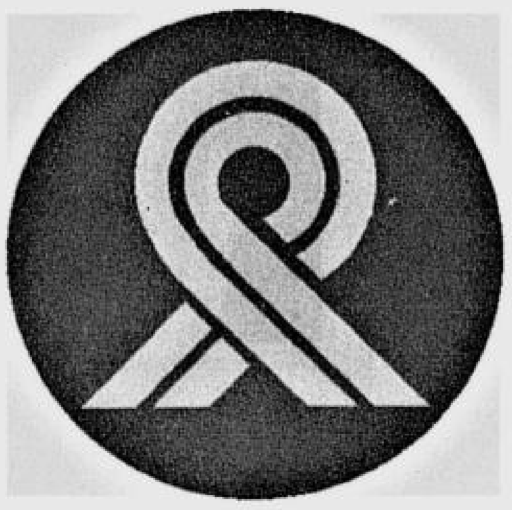
SEEMS like the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) is ready to make a fresh start, beginning with a new logo.

Out will go the gold and green ribbon-like insignia that stood for the unified Makati and Manila bourses for years.

In comes a yellow, three-dimensional acronym of PSE , embossed on a bright red backdrop, a stylized version of Wall Street's New York Stock Exchange designed for the PSE by Graphic Atelier.



IN with the new



OUT with the old

So what's wrong with the old one?

The old logo depicted the unification and "the aspirations for growth and prosperity of its members."

At the center are two X's (symbolizing the exchanges) running parallel with each other. The diagonal lines are connected by two curved lines at the top forming a head, signifying the union of the two exchanges.

The base is slanted and broad, "depicting an organization that is well-grounded, strong, balanced and stable." The circular enclosure was supposed to mean perfection and the influence of the PSE on the economy. The green backdrop is for fertility and growth, while the gold outline denotes prosperity.

PSE chair Alicia Rita Arroyo said observations she received about the old symbol was that the green and the gold were in conflict in Feng Shui and that the ends of the looped symbol pointed downwards which meant it may be unlucky.

On the other hand, Feng Shui expert Victor Dy said the new logo's rectangular backdrop "imparts a feeling of stability."

He adds that the red should be "attractive" as that of fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp., or National Bookstore or telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

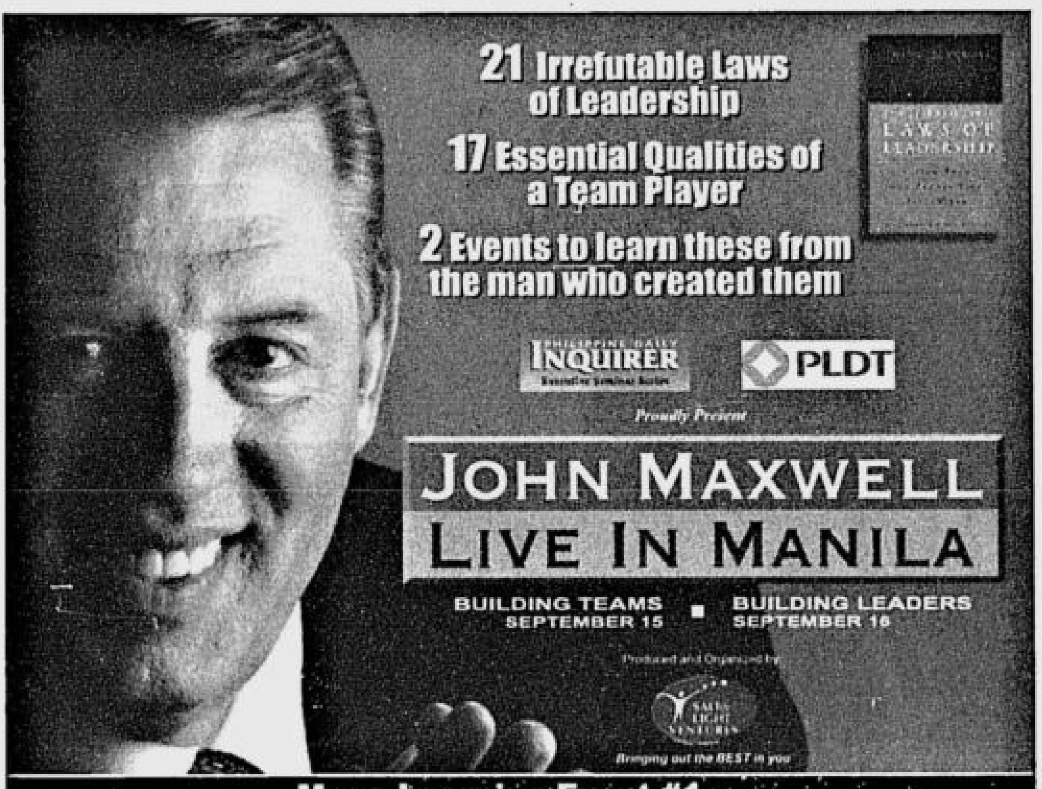
"I didn't have any problem with the old one but I prefer fire-engine red," Francisco Villaroman, PSE board director said.

Dy also said the yellow should be bright enough to catch attention. The red, he said stands for fire, and is an element of a stock exchange. It produces earth as represented by yellow. Earth is the mother of creation and in turn, produces metal as represented by the white letters that spell out PSE in full.

In what is called the realm of Dynamic Feng Shui, Dy explained there are 20 year cycles.

The seventh cycle started in 1984 and ended in 2003 where a lot of businesses closed

PSE/ B2-3



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An INTERESTing tax deduction

By Henry M. Tan and Francis J. Ricamora
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

COMPANIES often borrow money in order to build plants or offices, buy other businesses, purchase inventories, or fund day-to-day operations. And as a normal business practice, when money is borrowed or something is bought on credit, interest will be charged. Interest is the premium that must be paid for the use of another's capital. It is actually a compensation allowed by law or fixed by parties for the use of money regardless of the name or denomination. Interest includes the amount paid for the borrowers use of money during the term of the loan, as well as for his/her confinement of money after the due date for its repayment.

While others may see interest payments as purely additional cost of doing business, it should be realized that interest expense helps in reducing the tax burden.

When is an interest deductible?

In general, the amount of interest expense paid or incurred within a taxable year in indebtedness in connection with the taxpayer's trade, business, or exercise of profession is allowed as deduction from the taxpayer's gross income. Section 34(B) of the 1997 Tax Code. Based on this general rule, it is important to note the following essentials for the deductibility of interest expense from gross income as provided in Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 13-2000:

- There must be an indebtedness.
- There should be an interest expense paid or incurred upon such indebtedness.
- The indebtedness must be that of the taxpayer.
- The indebtedness must be connected with the taxpayer's trade, business or exercise of profession.
- The interest expense must have been paid or incurred during the taxable year.
- The interest must have been stipulated in writing.
- The interest must be legally due.

The present rules allow the deduction of interest for as long as the above requisites are complied with. However, this benefit of deduction will be subject to a limitation provided under the Tax Code. The amount of interest expense paid or incurred by a taxpayer will be reduced by an amount equal to the 38 percent (starting Jan. 1, 2000) of the interest income earned which had been subject to final withholding tax (FWT) (e.g., 20 percent tax on interest on deposits and yield). This limitation shall apply regardless of whether or not a tax arbitrage scheme was entered into by the taxpayer or regardless of the date when the interest-bearing loan and the date when the investment was made for as long as, during the taxable year, there is an interest expense incurred on one side and an interest income earned on the other side, which interest income had been subjected to FWT. This rule shall be observed irrespective of the currency of the loan contracted and/or in whatever currency the investments or deposits were made.

This limitation is illustrated as follows: *(See table.)*

Interest Expense from loans	P 150,000
Interest Income from bank deposits (net of FWT amounting to P36,000)	144,000
Computation of Deductible Interest Expense:	
Interest Expense	P 150,000
Less: 41% of Interest income gross of FWT (41% of 180,000)	73,800
Deductible Interest Expense	76,200

Aside from interest on loans and indebtedness, interest incurred or paid by the taxpayer on all unpaid business-related taxes (deficiency taxes) is also allowed to be deducted from gross income. The good news, this time, is that the full amount of interest shall not be subject to limitation on deduction. Thus, such interest expense shall not be diminished by the percentage of interest income earned which had been subjected to FWT.

[Section 3(c) of RR No. 13-2000]

Finally, at the option of the taxpayer, interest expense on capital expenditure incurred to acquire property used in trade, business, or exercise of a profession may be allowed as a deduction in full in the year when incurred or may be treated as a capital expenditure for which the taxpayer may claim only as a deduction the periodic amortization of such expenditure pursuant to Section 34(B)(3) of the 1997 Tax Code. Should the taxpayer elect to deduct the interest payments against the gross income, the taxpayer cannot at the same time capitalize the interest payments. (Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines [Picop] vs Court of Appeals, Commissioner of Internal Revenue and Court of Tax Appeals, GR Nos. 106949-50)

When is an interest not deductible?

Not all interest expenses incurred from trade or business are deductible from gross income. To prevent the abuse of the deduction of interest expense, the Tax Code identified the following cases wherein the deduction of interest expense from gross income shall not be allowed:

1. If within the taxable year, an individual taxpayer reporting income on the cash basis incurs an indebtedness on which an interest is paid in advance through discount or otherwise. The interest arising from this transaction shall only be allowed in the year the indebtedness is paid and if the indebtedness is payable in periodic amortizations, the amount of interest which corresponds to the amount of the principal amortized or paid during the year shall be allowed as deduction in such taxable year.

2. If both the taxpayer and the person to whom the payment has been made or is to be made are persons specified under Section 36 of the Tax Code, to wit:

a. Between members of a family. For purposes of this paragraph, the family of an individual shall include only his brothers and sisters (whether by the whole or half-blood), spouse, ancestors and lineal descendants; or

b. Except in the case of distributions in liquidation, between an individual and a corporation more than 50 percent in value of the outstanding stock of which is owned, directly, and indirectly, by or for such individual; or

c. Except in the case of distributions in liquidation, between two corporations more than 50 percent in value of the outstanding stock of each of which is owned, directly, and indirectly, by or for the same individual, if either one of such corporations, with respect to the taxable year of the corporation preceding the date of the sale or exchange was, under the law applicable to such taxable year, a personal holding company or a foreign personal holding company; or

Note that interest charges between affiliated companies is not automatically disallowed based on the above restriction. In CTA Case No. 6013, Precision Electronics Realty Corp. vs. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, it was emphasized that before two corporations are considered as related taxpayers in the above requisite, the requirement of more than 50 percent direct or indirect ownership of the corporation must be satisfied. In this case, the relationship of the petitioner and its lender was established by examining the actual stockholdings of the petitioner to determine if there is an individual who owns, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of its outstanding stocks. Although the lender has 40 percent ownership of petitioner, it was settled that the lender and petitioner were not related taxpayers for purposes of the deductibility of interest. Thus, the restriction on deduction was not applied. The same view is evident in BIR Ruling DA-196-03 dated June 20, 2003. It was held that the ownership of two affiliated corporations for purposes of the deductibility of interest must be traced to the level of the individual shareholder.

d. Between the grantor and a fiduciary of any trust; or

e. Between the fiduciary of a trust and the fiduciary of another trust if the same person is a grantor with respect to each trust; or

f. Between a fiduciary of a trust and a beneficiary of such trust.

If the indebtedness on which the interest expense is paid is incurred to finance petroleum exploration in the Philippines. The nondeductible interest expense herein referred to pertains to interest or other consideration paid or incurred by a service contractor engaged in the discovery and production of indigenous petroleum in the Philippines with respect to the financing of its petroleum operations, pursuant to Section 3 of Presidential Decree No. 8, a amended by PD 87, otherwise known as The Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972.

Interest expense is already part and parcel of doing business or practicing profession. Instead of just looking at the negative side of paying interests, one should just maximize the benefits that can be availed from it as an allowable deduction for income tax purposes.

Cash in on a white gold called coconut

From page B2-1

and E, which make the oil an ideal skin moisturizer and revitalizer.

More consumers here and abroad are rediscovering these benefits, leading to a proliferation of diet and cosmetic products based on virgin coconut oil.

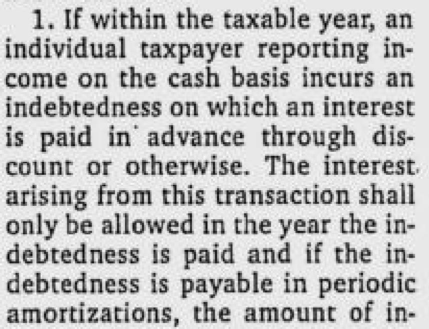
"Virgin coconut oil could replace a lot of medicine that we take to cure simple ailments," he says.

This makes the investment worth making, he adds, as the profit potential has yet to be fully exploited.

He estimates that the simple cold process equipment is capable of processing 600 nuts a day.

These nuts that would cost about P3,000 or P5 a piece, would produce 40 liters that could be sold at an average of P800 each.

This translates to a gross profit of between P32,000 and P40,000 a day.



THE SIMPLE cold process equipment is capable of processing 600 nuts a day.

"Most farmers till an average of three hectares each and 50 to 60 nuts just litter the farm. With this new technology, they would be able to easily augment their income. And the technology is so easy to learn," he says.

Farmers have long produced copra to feed the demand for cooking oil, but it was not until recently that the United States and Europe rediscovered the unparalleled benefits of using virgin coconut oil, both as a diet supplement and for cosmetic applications.

In the 1980s, the coconut oil industry was almost wiped out when US lobby groups painted coconut oil as "bad" oil due to its high fat content. Instead, these groups celebrated the benefits of other oils such as soy and canola.

Fortunately, scientists and researchers who have long studied the benefits of virgin coconut oil have broken to the mainstream. And many consumers have stood up to listen.

In the Philippines, Mamangun says that an increasing number of farmer cooperatives are looking to join the virgin coconut oil revolution.

"As more Filipinos realize the benefits of using virgin coconut oil, farmers would no longer rely on the prices of copra for their livelihood because they will now have an alternative source of income," he says.

PSE hopes ...

From page B2-2

like US energy firm Enron, Italian food giant Parmalat and Internet firm World.Com.

"Most buildings were constructed in the previous 7th cycle while those entities that are doing well in the past, due to the correct placement of their main doors and propitious placement or layout of their offices were able to enjoy good Feng Shui and prosperity," Dy wrote.

He said 2004 is the beginning of the eighth cycle and signal a 20-year cycle that favors the youth. It is also a year where most countries hold their national election and start a new mandate.

Further analyzing the PSE's new logo, he said the PSE design looks like a roadmap that starts at the vertical stroke of "P" and has two exit points, one at the top of "S" or the highest point and the other at the end stroke of "e" or still higher than the entry point at "P."

"The Feng Shui interpretation is that if an investor invests or joins the game, he will be able to come out at the high point or eventually come out at a higher position than the entry level. This is different from the currency and derivatives market where more people lost their shirts," Dy wrote.

The logo underscores the PSE's tack to go on a marketing offensive, powered by support from various multilateral institutions.

Arroyo said the PSE plans to conduct a roundtable for investors to further promote the stock market.

The PSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) recently received a P3 million technical assistance grant from the Australian government to strengthen reforms and separately help in market regulation and reform.

The SEC will focus on building the capability of its staff through organizational and management training as well as supporting public seminars for good corporate governance and international accounting standards.

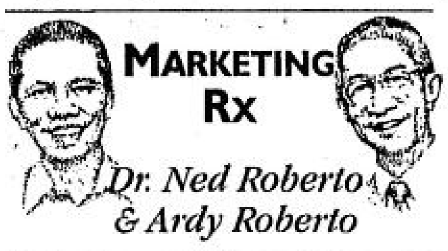
The PSE on the other hand will focus on financial analysis training to enhance the abilities of its listing and disclosure departments. The program will help the listings and disclosure staff understand financial statements and relevant accounting standards affecting listed companies.

Also among PSE's key priorities is to seek clarification of certain provisions under the Securities Regulation Code such as its status as a self-regulatory organization.

Ready to put the past behind it, Arroyo said the PSE should move forward after it was recently hounded by controversies such as the recent resignation of its president and the planned pullout of Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) of its investment in PSE shares.

Some brokers think the PSE's problem is beyond luck but with a new badge, Feng Shui experts hope that the new logo and leadership will bring in good tidings in the coming years.

Challenging Al Ries (just for the heck of it)



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

THIS IS a continuation of our August 28th column. We ended last Friday's column with the promise, "Next week, MRx challenges Al Ries."

We start by recalling the essence of Al Ries' own prescription on brand positioning: "Focus and own a word in the consumers' mind and you'll not only survive; you'll thrive. Do otherwise and you'll meet the fate of ... companies" that lost focus and extended their brands beyond the "words" that they owned. In the process, they lost market share, brand value and over-all profitability. (Al Ries is the best selling author of Focus! And The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing and a host of other marketing books. He is also the Chair of Ries & Ries—Focusing Consultants. MRx listened and talked to him at the recent Global Brand Forum in Singapore.)

Bitin

This logic of Ries' marketing prescription is, well, "bitin." It's really just half the story. Or a half-truth. And most half-truths, when provocatively presented have persuasive face validity.

The other half of the story is that having no or incorrect focus and not owning a word in another segment of the consumers' minds is what leads to failure.

Consider Al Ries' "evidence" in terms of the 2 cases of Mercedes Benz and Volkswagen.

If you do the beneath-the-surface analysis of what Benz did, it becomes clear that Benz was trying to enter the other price segments of the car buying market in order to grow its business. The price segments Benz had in mind are: (1) the super-premium segment of the $50,000 to $80,000 luxury sedans where it's known; (2) the premium segment of the $25,000 SUV; (3) the economy segment of the $18,000 vans; and (4) the sub-economy segment of the $9,000 mini-car.

Strictly speaking, it's wrong to say that the $25,000 SUVs are for the upper middle class segment, or that the $18,000 vans are for the middle class segment. The very rich, the rich and the middle class can and some of them do buy any of these cars. It's a price segmentation and not a socio-eco segmentation. There's no one-to-one correspondence between price segments and socio-eco segments.

So what really went wrong? Al Ries' surface analysis immediately jumped to the conclusion that Benz failed because it expanded into other car models to make its brand affordable. According to Al Ries, to its consumers, Benz lost its ownership of the word "expensive."

This should be stated as a hypothesis and more accurately worded this way: "To its super-premium segment consumers, Benz lost its ownership of the word 'expensive.'" If research shows, that super-premium consumers continue to buy the Benz $50,000-$80,000 luxury sedans, then the proposition is proven wrong. Also, proof of error can be drawn from data showing that these same consumers are buying the cheaper SUVs and vans.

The correct marketing analysis should go beneath the surface, beneath the apparent. It should look at what could have gone wrong in the segmentation process and asked these questions:

- Were the identification and definition of the different price segments correct in that they were consumer-drawn definitions? In other words, did the premium price segment of SUV buyers define this segment as $25,000? If higher or lower than this level, then the segment definition was wrong, and that's one source of the failure.
- Did the segment profiling identify the true consumer car value priorities of the segment and this segment consumers' perceived point of difference among competing brands in the segment? If this was missed, then here's a second source of the brand expansion failure.
- Was the chosen brand positioning in each of the new target segment crafted and communicated correctly? If not, then this is the third source of the failure.

In other words, success will come when you're correct in all these three dimensions of successful brand extension. And not just in the Al Ries one-dimensional concept of successful brand extension.

We can do a similar analysis in the case of Volkswagen. Its strategy for growing its business went in the reverse direction: from being and owning the "cheap" car buying segment and word to expanding to the higher level price segments.

Surface or substantive analysis?

So here is the issue. What do we believe and act on-surface or substantive analysis? In the two cases of Benz and Volkswagen, to get to the whole truth, do substantive, beneath-the-surface analysis. Put what's immediately apparent to you in a total perspective and context. In these 2 cases, that context is the S-T-P segmentation process.

We've been asked in our "Marketing Success Seminar" if there are counter examples to Al Ries.' When arguing on the basis of cases, the other correct critical way to challenge a half-truth marketing insight is to present just as persuasive counter examples or cases.

Consider the case of J & J. This brand has successfully grown its business by extending to many other product categories aside from talcum baby powder. It has leading market share and is earning enviable profitability in the segments of baby lotion, toilet baby soap, baby shampoo, and so on.

One of the reasons for its brand extension success is its product focus and ownership of the word, "baby products." In all these successful extensions, it never left its product focus on the BABY market segment. In this sense, it did not only own a word, it also succeeded in owning a market segment. Also, it was clearly not into price segmentation; it was into market need segmentation. (The junior MRx raised the J&J case to Al Ries and well, Ries, got irritated. "Why do people ask me questions as if to convince me that I'm wrong?")

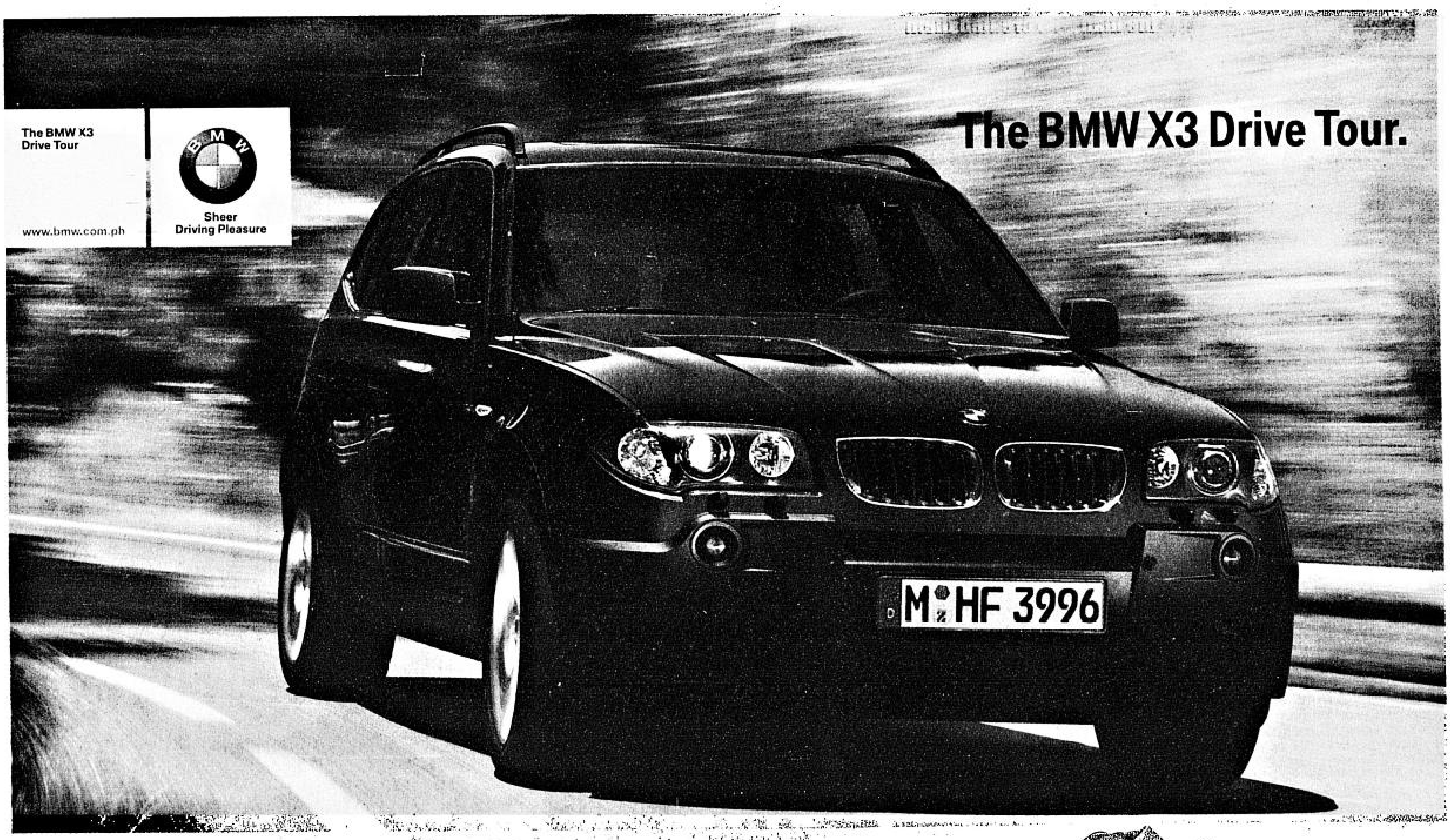
The J & J case

The other, and more important reason, for its success is that every time it thought of brand extension, it did beneath-the-surface, substantive analysis and research of the new candidate segment. It has been asked, for example, "why, if J&J owns the baby segment, why is it that it did not go into the categories of baby milk or baby medication?" According to Fred Rodriguez, J & J's former CEO and supreme turn-around master, research into these categories or segments indicated that J & J products were seen by mothers in the baby segment as for the baby's external needs and use, not for internal ingestion. So it was substantive, beneath-the-surface analysis that showed and qualified the word and segment ownership of the brand. It owns not the generic word "baby products" but the specific word "baby products for external use."

But as you can now appreciate, it's still all about the most basic concept in marketing that has to do with market segmentation and the segmentation-based brand positioning definition. Remember S-T-P as the segmentation process in 3 steps: 1st step of the process is segmenting (partitioning the total market into segments and then profiling each of the segments in terms of its market attractiveness); then 2nd step of targeting the most market attractive segment as your PTM (primary target market) segment; and 3rd and final step of positioning, that is, focusing on the PTM segment's priority product value where your brand has its distinctive point of difference.

Here then the simple MRx for your responding to the Al Ries diagnosis and MRx. For the S.O.S.A. issue, go for the substantive, beneath-the-surface analysis of the MRx. Challenge the surface, superficial analysis no matter how provocatively and persuasively it is presented. And this challenge consists in doing substantive analysis of the base segmentation process of the presented MRx.

Email your questions or comments to MarketingRx@SaltandLightVentures.com. Or text us at 0919-314-5412.



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METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC.

10 Outstanding Teachers for 2004

Standing (from left) Genersol G. Monton of Fort Bonifacio High School; Dr. M of the University of the Philippines-Manila; Noel Solis of Zamboanga del Nort High School; Mariecon Ramirez of Ilocos Norte National High School. Sitting Peralta of Kidapawan City Pilot Elementary School; Josephine C. Deligente of Iriga City Division Integrated Special School

Elementary

Devotion to music brought her to the world

LINA Jala, who teaches music to pupils at the Triple Union Elementary School in Camaya-an, Loboc, Bohol, hails from a music-loving family.

Her first initiation to music was from her mother, who taught her "do re mi." Her husband composed songs, and mainly because of the influences of the elders, her six children are all musically inclined. They all know how to play musical instruments—either the piano or guitar.

What made her win this year's outstanding teacher award is her involvement with the Loboc Children's Choir. She's the trainer and pianist of the world-famous chorale group.

In September last year, the Loboc Children's Choir brought honor and pride to the Filipino people when it bagged the two top awards in the International Choir Competition in Barcelona, Spain. The choir garnered a rating of 97.5 points, which enabled it to win the grand prize in the children's category. The choir also won the "Gold Cup Award" in the "Europe and Its Songs" international competition for having achieved the highest mark among all the 12 international participants. Easily put, the Loboc Children's Choir was the competition's over-all winner.

For 23 years, out of her 36 years of service as a music teacher, Lina has been serving the children's choir. Everyday, she devotes two hours of her time in the afternoon teaching and training her pupils. It was during her watch also that the choir won three times in the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya)—in 1993, 1995 and 2001.

Lina's love and devotion to music and her exploits with the children's choir has brought her to various countries around the world. They have been to the United States, China, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Germany. She and her pupils are still looking forward to travel and to represent the country in future choral competitions abroad.

Lina believes that teaching is a gift from God and is a mission. "It is a mission because one has to set targets for accomplishments for a certain period without considering the compensation to be achieved. As a missionary, she has to extend everything that she has in order to help improve the quality of life of the people in the community," she relates.

She confesses that she doesn't have formal schooling in music. She considers her talent in teaching the subject a God-given gift. She also regards her award as one of this year's outstanding teachers as "another present from God, a reward to the services rendered to Him."

Lina obtained her degree in elementary education at the Holy Name University in 1967. In 1986, she graduated cum laude at the University of Bohol in Tagbilaran City with a Master of Arts degree in education.

Humbling moments as a teacher

ONE of the most humbling moments as a teacher for **Meilrose Peralta** was when she was starting out and was assigned to Bagontapay High School (now Mariano Untal Memorial High School) in M'lan, Cotabato.

She recalls how difficult it was to travel to her school and back to her hometown in Kidapawan City 30 km away. Transportation in the province, she admits, was a big problem then. In order to get to Bagontapay, she and her companions had to ride whatever kind of vehicle was available. And in all those years, they rode either the panel, fire truck, police car, ten-wheeler truck and ambulance just to get to their destination.

Meilrose now teaches English to pupils at the Kidapawan City Pilot Elementary School. She no longer has to worry about going to and from school. She and her husband have decided to settle for good in Kidapawan City, her hometown.

She comes from a family of teachers. Her parents are teachers, her aunts and uncles are also teachers. She says that it was mainly their influence which made her decide to choose teaching as her lifetime career.

Meilrose believes that teaching entails a lot of sacrifice. She says that a teacher should be larger than her profession and bigger than her vocation. In teaching, she says, service is more valued than personal gain and one should always go the extra mile.

She says that her award as an outstanding teacher is definitely the greatest feat she has achieved in her 14 years as a teacher. It is also very meaningful to her because she made it in so short a time. She's now the youngest Metrobank awardee at 35!

Meilrose was a semifinalist in the 2002 Metrobank outstanding teacher search and was finalist last year. She's the first awardee from her school and is the second from Kidapawan City. She obtained her Bachelor in Secondary Education major in English degree, cum laude, from University of Southern Mindanao in 1989. In 1992, she earned her Master of Professional Studies in Development Education degree also from University of Southern Mindanao.

'No teaching when there's no learning'

FOR **Genersol Monton**, learning is very important as far as teaching is concerned. She believes that in a classroom, there's no teaching when learning does not occur.

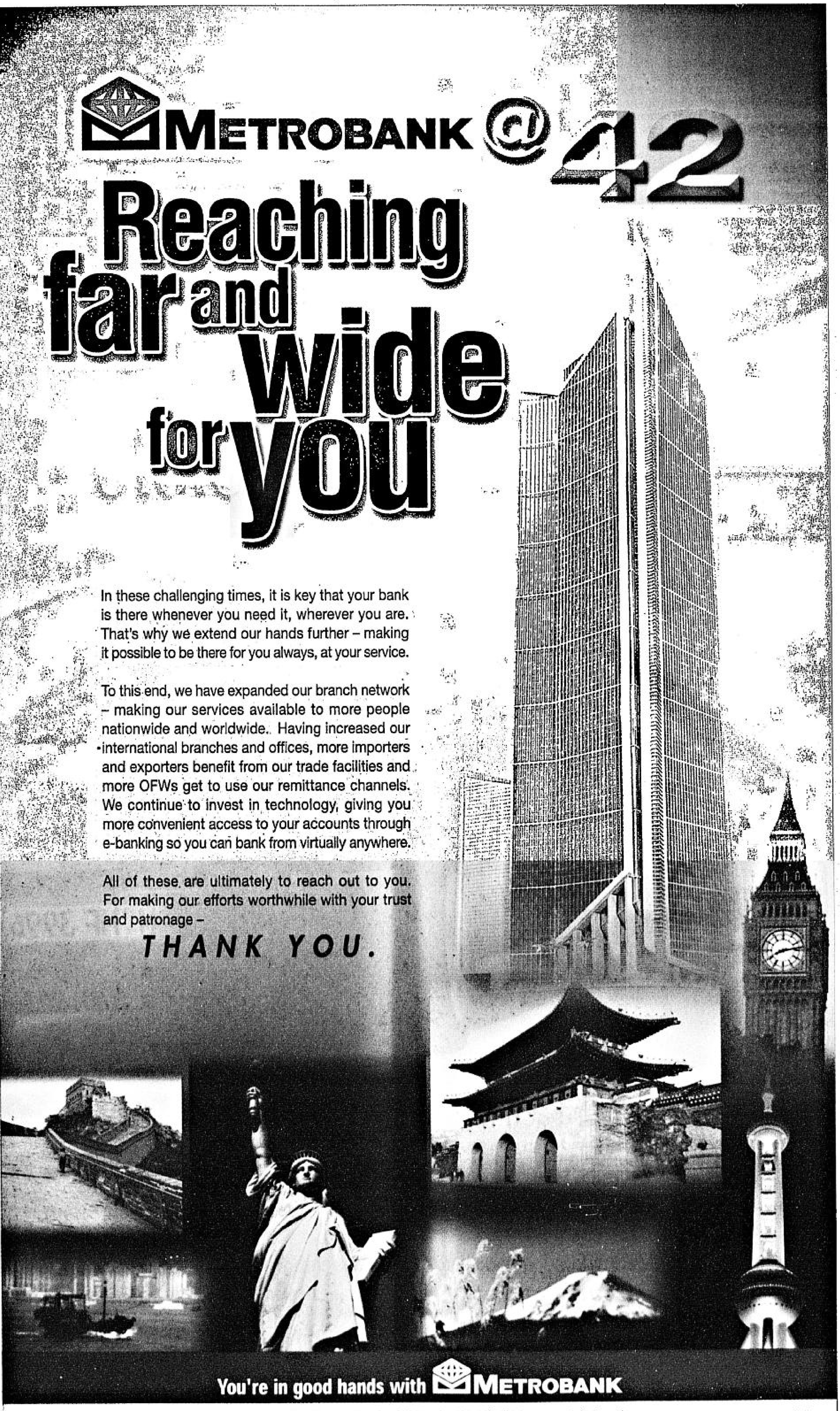
This is the reason she always takes extra efforts to make sure that her students are able to absorb what is being taught to them. And since she is teaching at a very large public high school in the metropolis, this is an everyday battle for her because she always has to contend with the big number of students in her class.

To deal with this, she devised a strategy that utilizes cooperative learning by creating study groups. With her guidance, each group meets regularly to study, do their assignments and discuss difficult lessons they encountered in the classroom. This makes learning easier for her 70 students in the class.

Gene to colleagues and friends, she teaches Biology to students at the Fort Bonifacio High School in Makati City. She started out as a teacher 26 years ago at the Mindanao State University where she finished her Bachelor of Science in Fisheries degree. She pursued her Bachelor of Elementary Education degree at the Bukidnon State College in 1989. In 2001, she finished her Master of Science degree in Biology at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Gene considers her award as a motivation to strive for more so she could be of service to others. She says it is an honor and inspiration to her family, an encouragement for her co-teachers to always strive for excellence, and a great achievement for her community. It is also a fulfillment of her dreams because as a teacher she is able to mold her students to become successful individuals. As a teacher also, she is able to help her school and her community.

ELEMENTARY/B2-6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anuel Dy Jr. of the Ateneo de Manila University and Dr. Antonio Miguel Dans
e National High School; Allan M. Canonigo of New Ormoc City National
(from left), Lina L. Jala of Triple Union Elementary School; Meilrose B.
Fernando Ma. Guerrero Elementary School and Annabelle S. Catimbang of

High School

Cool mentor

IF there's one thing that differentiates the class of **Mariecon Ramirez** from other English classes, it is the fun atmosphere of a class browsing the Internet, putting up a Web magazine, joining Friendster, or sending assignments through e-mail or chat. There are also videos and Powerpoint presentations in LCDs. Cool class, isn't it?

After all, you need to get the attention of students of today, who are bombarded with high-tech distractions and interests from all sides, according to Ramirez

It helps that Ramirez, 33, belongs to "Generation X", used to the IT environment. Her students belong to "Generation Z", just a decade or two younger. The generation gap doesn't exist much here and there's a great degree of understanding.

Ramirez, who already has 18 units of Doctor of Education at MMSU Laoag City, teaches third year high school students in Ilocos Norte National High School.

Her being an effective English teacher has contributed to the students' high scores in diagnostic tests in English. The school was able to clinch the International Award for Best Web Magazine in a Southeast Asia Internet competition for the Web magazine done by Ramirez' group.

She is an expert coach to students who participate and win in writing and speech competitions. She is the adviser of the school's publication and under her supervision, the student editorial group behind the publication won awards in journalism conferences in the division, regional and national levels.

A "real" teacher according to Ramirez is someone who does not enter the profession because it was just a "handy alternative to an elusive dream or career." She lamented at how the teaching profession became only as a second best choice for many professionals, such as engineers or CPAs, who didn't make it in their respective careers.

"A real teacher carries an intense passion for teaching that does not end when class period ends," she said. "A real teacher is sincerely concerned with her students, not only with their academic development but with their physical, emotional, psychological and moral development. She takes pride in the profession and strives to live up to the good name of this age-old noblest profession."

As to her unique teaching style, Ramirez strongly recommends the use of information technology in teaching. She said IT makes learning more enjoyable and such an advanced and modern facility motivates students to participate actively in classes.

"IT is the language of the modern world and in order to produce competitive students who can survive in this global village, we must show them how to use IT to their advantage."

Poetry in Math

HE CAN write poetry about Math. He can simplify the probability theory down to the number of promotional items one can get out of a milk carton box.

Allan Canonigo, 32, who has been teaching Math for 11 years, can make Math and its abstract theories common and applicable in the everyday lives of his students in the New Ormoc City National High School.

Canonigo's teaching style focuses on making the students realize the "practical" side of Math, its use in the simplest process of day-today activities of man.

As chair of the school's Mathematics department, he has organized other Math teachers in his school to break down Math's cold barrier and make the subject interesting to students.

Every Saturday, he and other Math teachers hold extra Math classes for those who are really in need of more coaching and for those who also excel in the field.

"The objective of mentoring is to develop the student's ability to challenge existing mental models and to develop his love of learning and the desire to become a lifelong learner," he said. "The classroom environment should be one of challenge and learning."

"He has kept himself abreast with new trends and ideas in teaching that has made him more effective and more competent. He has devoted himself to helping the students by initiating remedial classes during Saturdays," said Ernesto Barquio, the school's principal.

Canonigo got his bachelor's degree with Science in Math as major at the Philippine Normal University in 1992. He earned his Master's at the Ateneo de Manila University in 2000. He received the regional outstanding secondary classroom teacher award in 2000 from the DepEd Regional office.

He has produced evaluation instruments in Math, lessons plans and training materials and other research materials.

Canonigo's childhood was spent in Ormoc. He grew up in a family of eight siblings. His father passed away when he was four. He worked in a sugarcane plantation to buy a new pair of shoes for school. After he graduated from high school, a college scholarship in Manila came his way.

Asked why he opted to go back to Ormoc to teach there when he could have opted to stay in Manila where opportunities abound, he said he never doubted his decision to go back to the province where "there are really more opportunities." Of course not in the "financial aspect," he said, but in realizing his potentials and the potentials of his students.

He says the teaching profession makes a teacher learn more. "In all teaching and learning, the teacher learns the most. He must have the desire to learn more—not only in his field of specialization, but most of all, learning about the learner and the nature of the subject he is handling."

A quote from his "A Mathematics Poem" reveals his teaching style.

"Mathematics in reality... /is mathematics in its sensibility/ where students think and connect easily/ to what they are experiencing daily."

Setting the best example

NOEL Solis is one of the most sought after and well-loved teachers at the Zamboanga del Norte National High School. And he teaches Biology.

Solis is aware that the subject he is assigned to teach may not look very interesting for some students. So he made an effort to make it fun and appealing. One of the methods he uses is called cooperative learning where he engages his students in the lecture and uses the first 15 minutes of the class for instruction.

According to Solis, who earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the Western Mindanao State University, he has been practicing cooperative learning long before it was adapted by other teachers. He also resorted to conducting field trips for the students to understand the lessons better.

Solis is currently taking up his Masters in Educational Management at Silliman University in Dumaguete City.

The 36-year-old Solis is also assigned in training other Science teachers within the Dipolog City Division. He was once a facilitator of the Pa-Probe Program (Philippines-Australia Project in Basic Education).

"What becomes of essence is the quality of lesson taught to students everyday," he said.

His being a teacher is not limited to the four walls of the classroom. Solis believes that being the best example to his students is the most effective way in honing productive citizens of the country.

"An outstanding teacher always considers the welfare of his or her students," said Solis who is on his 14th year in the profession.

He related an incident when one of his students almost gave up school when he found out that his family was on the brink of breaking up. He convinced the boy to go back to school and even went to the extent of paying for the boy's summer classes.

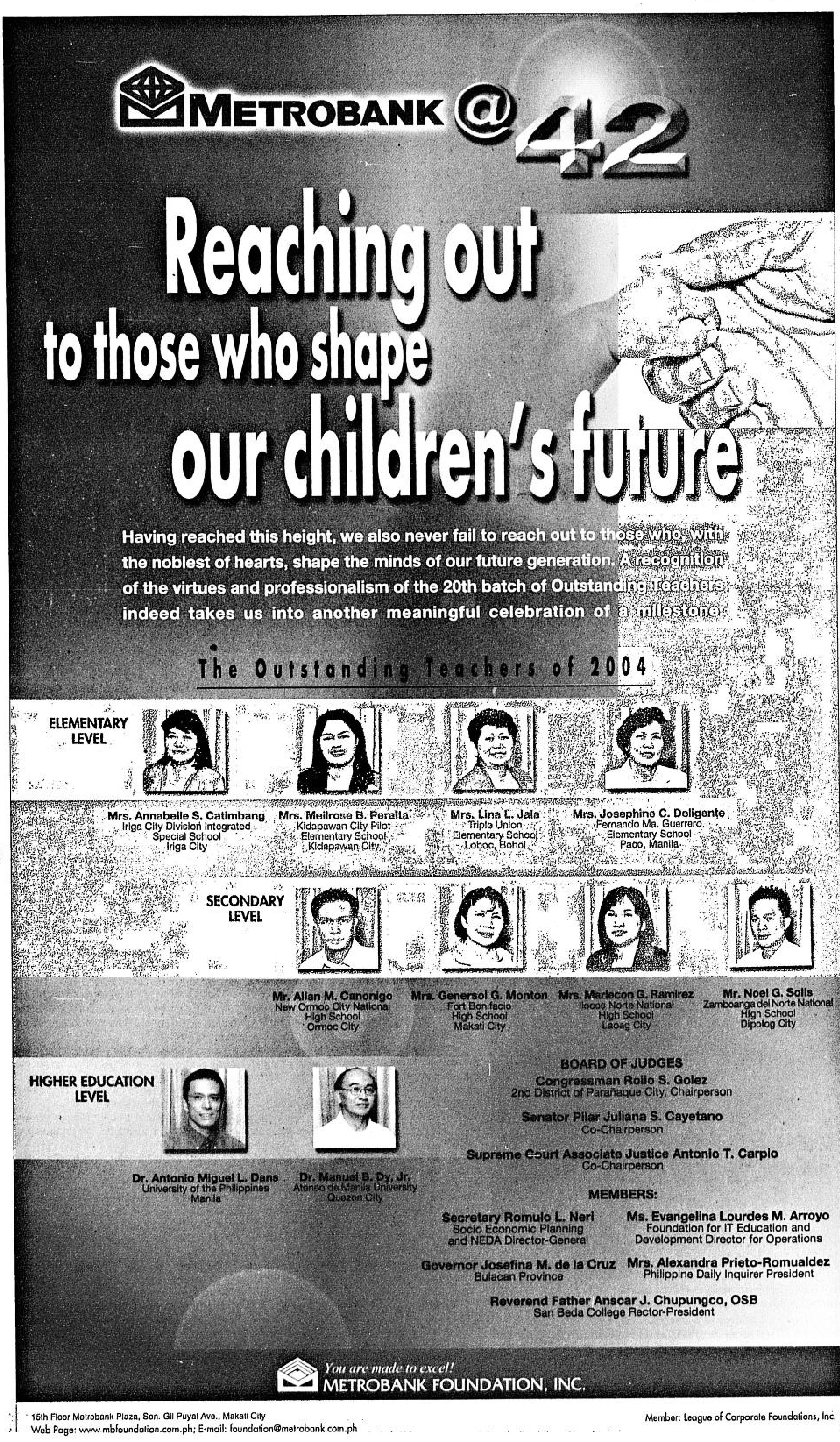
He lives by the Atenean's philosophy of being "a person for others." Solis opens his line of communication to his students in the event that they need someone to talk to.

In all of the help he has extended in the past, he has never asked for anything in return, because he believes that helping should be an unconditional act.

Solis considers the Metrobank Search for the Most Outstanding Teachers as the greatest personal challenge so far since the screening of Brite (Brisbane In-Service Teams) fellows for Australia.

Solis finds fulfillment from his students who appreciate his work and his presence in their lives.

"No other reward is more self-fulfilling than the satisfaction my students have in life because of me," he said.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Reaching out to those who shape our children's future

Having reached this height, we also never fail to reach out to those who, with the noblest of hearts, shape the minds of our future generation. A recognition of the virtues and professionalism of the 20th batch of Outstanding Teachers indeed takes us into another meaningful celebration of a milestone.

The Outstanding Teachers of 2004

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Mrs. Annabelle S. Catimbang
Iriga City Division Integrated Special School
Iriga City

Mrs. Meilrose B. Peralta
Kidapawan City Pilot Elementary School
Kidapawan City

Mrs. Lina L. Jala
Triple Union Elementary School
Loboc, Bohol

Mrs. Josephine C. Deligente
Fernando Ma. Guerrero Elementary School
Paco, Manila

SECONDARY LEVEL

Mr. Allan M. Canonigo
New Ormoc City National High School
Ormoc City

Mrs. Genersol G. Monton
Fort Bonifacio High School
Makati City

Mrs. Mariecon G. Ramirez
Ilocos Norte National High School
Laoag City

Mr. Noel G. Solis
Zamboanga del Norte National High School
Dipolog City

HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL

Dr. Antonio Miguel L. Dans
University of the Philippines
Manila

Dr. Manuel B. Dy, Jr.
Ateneo de Manila University
Quezon City

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Elementary

From page B2-4

The joy in teaching third graders

EVERY year, one would always notice a change or improvement inside Fernando Ma. Guerrero Elementary School in Pedro Gil, Paco Manila. It's either the school's auditorium underwent renovation, the classrooms' roofs and walls were repainted, the principal's office widened, or the herbal garden transformed into a beautiful mini park.

Thanks to the school's unique program "Brigada Escuela," which Grade 3 teacher **Josephine Deligente** chairs.

Under the stewardship of Deligente, Brigada Escuela was able to organize the parents, teachers, *barangay* and other private individuals and enterprises to help in the school's renovation and improvement.

Deligente has been teaching Grade 3 students for 28 years. This does not only indicate her deep love and commitment for her profession, but also her love to teach third graders.

"There's joy in teaching children. They make me feel young and alive with their laughter and jokes," she said.

"I believe that every child is a learner and that God has given him the capacity to learn because of his innate potentials and talents that can be developed and molded to their fullest through the guidance of a teacher. The teacher prepares them for lifelong learning as well as develop desirable values of being *makabayan, makatao, makakalikasan at maka-Diyos.*"

She has produced several instructional materials, prototype lessons plans, evaluative instruments, modules that are now widely being used by teachers and students in the Division of City Schools.

Life is beautiful, and will always be

ANNABELLE Catimbang of Iriga City Division Integrated Special School did not plan on becoming a special education teacher. While growing up, she was fond of people with disabilities and that she would always notice them in crowds.

"God has a way of putting us where we are," she said of her profession that not only became a source of living but also a source of fulfillment as well.

"My work is a mixture of inspiration and creativity, as well as perspiration and perseverance," she said. "I have a strong commitment to widen my special pupil's horizon and to show to them that life is still beautiful and will always be beautiful."

She has been teaching special children in the elementary level for 19 years and her field of expertise is teaching children with hearing impairment and autism.

In her line of work, she gets by with a lot of creativity to get the full attention of her students, who according to her, could actually be the most noisy—because they can't hear the noise they're making.

"Special children need to be provided with multiplicity of instructional materials. If it means I need a carpenter to design a material for one child, I seek for it.

"I need to look at the children's eyes. I pay attention to their wrinkled brows. I have to notice whether they are with me and quickly modify the strategy when I see them struggle and drift off. I drain myself down in their emotions."

One of her students garnered a gold medal in the 1999 World Summer Special Olympic Games in North Carolina.

Catimbang's teaching goes beyond the boundaries of the school where she teaches. She organized and co-founded an NGO the Rise-Up Center for the Differently-Abled Persons Inc, a nongovernment organization that provides vocational training and skills for children and adults with disability so that they can live and work in mainstream society.

She is a certified interpreter of the deaf and a member of the Interpreters Team. She uses her skill in helping people with disabilities who cannot express themselves in hearings in court trials.

Aside from teaching second grade special children, she also teaches graduate students taking up special education in a university in Iriga City.

Catimbang considers it as a personal challenge to encourage more teachers to take up special education.

"Because of the demand of special educational services to disabled children are still unserved and unreached, I am deeply challenged to train more workers in dealing or teaching special children," she said.

"We need to train more interpreters to help address the needs of disabled victims in cases without due process; we need to train teachers and parents to interpret for students who intend to enroll in college but could not because of lack of interpreters."

Catimbang has an education degree from University of Saint Anthony in Iriga City and Masters Degree on special education hearing impairment from the same university.

She took an international course for the deaf normal intelligence from the Instituut voor Doven St. M., Netherlands in 1992. She has also attended training on special education abroad, particularly in Germany and Netherlands.

College

Dedication in helping people

"I SEE the hands of God at work here," said **Dr. Manuel Dy Jr.** of his shifting his undergraduate course to Philosophy and ending up teaching it for 36 years at the Ateneo de Manila University.

In that span of time, Dy, 56, was able to produce several instructional materials, some of which are used in many colleges in the country. His "Philosophy of Man, Selected Readings" has been reprinted many times and came out with a second edition in 2001. It is used in teaching the course Philosophy of the Human Person in several sections at the Ateneo.

Dy almost left Ateneo for another university when as a second year student he thought of transferring because his grades were not enough to maintain his scholarship. But, as he said, God has His plans.

After finding out that there was a new degree program, Philosophy, he immediately seized the opportunity, and as the cliché goes, the rest was history.

"My vineyard is Philosophy, and the grape I specialize in is Chinese Philosophy," wrote Dy in his essay.

A half-Chinese and hailing from Cebu, Dy is very much interested in teaching this course because "it teaches people to live their lives. It has some similarities in the Filipino way of thinking."

Dy, who first took up Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, and then History before deciding to shift to Philosophy, was also instrumental in Roselle Ambubuyog's (the visually impaired valedictorian and consistent honor student) entry to Ateneo. During his term as the director of Admissions he worked for the Ateneo College Entrance Test to be translated into Braille. Ambubuyog graduated summa cum laude several years ago.

Dy exudes a degree of humility and seems not to be affected by the kilometric list of his achievements and the recognition he has received over the years.

The desire to help others is a natural thing for Dy. Four of the six *basahan* vendors he helped obtain scholarships from Ateneo are living with him on weekdays. He saw them along Sta. Lucia East Mall and felt that they deserved more in their lives.

In the 1986 Edsa Revolution, he was instrumental in distributing food outside Gate 4 of Camp Aguinaldo. In 1972, Dy worked with Fr. Raul Bonoan SJ in organizing Operasyon Tulong, a relief operation for the victims of flood in Central Luzon.

Many of Dy's students are now prominent people in their own right, from arts to government service to the corporate world.

Aside from the fulfillment he gets from teaching, the other thing that keeps Dy going after more than three decades in the profession is his daily Mass.

"My going to Mass and my teaching form a unity," he said. "As the Lord gives Himself to me in Holy Communion, so must I give myself to my students in class and outside of class."

'Rebel' with a cause

HE almost didn't become a doctor because he didn't like memorizing his lessons. He likes to question everything he feels is not right. He prefers creativity to knowledge. And he thinks he does not deserve the Most Outstanding Teacher award.

Dr. Antonio Miguel Dans, 46, is a medical practitioner at the Philippine General Hospital and teaches at the University of the Philippines in Manila.

Dans wants to share the award with his colleagues at the College of Medicine, especially with those involved in Medical Research and General Internal Medicine.

"Teaching is not something you do alone," he said. "We at the college share our common ideas and that's what makes me an effective teacher because I learn a lot from them."

Dans, who obtained his Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology from the McMaster University in Canada, is currently focusing on promoting General Medicine because he believes that it has more advantages compared to other fields of specialization.

"Everyone is a specialist in this country," he said.

Dans, a member of the Philippine College of Physicians (Scientific Committee) and Philippine Heart Association (Council on Coronary Disease), wants to improve the common perception that if a doctor is a generalist, he or she is an inferior physician.

He knows where he speaks of as he graduated from the UP College of Medicine, Manila, with a degree in Internal Medicine Cardiology in 1983, and was a specialist before studying General Adult Medicine again.

Dans considers himself a "rebel" all his life. Ever since grade school he didn't like memorizing his lessons, "and I refuse to learn what I thought was useless."

Until this day when he is already the instrument of learning for his students, he encourages them to question everything because he feels that this is one of the ways for the field of Medicine to move forward.

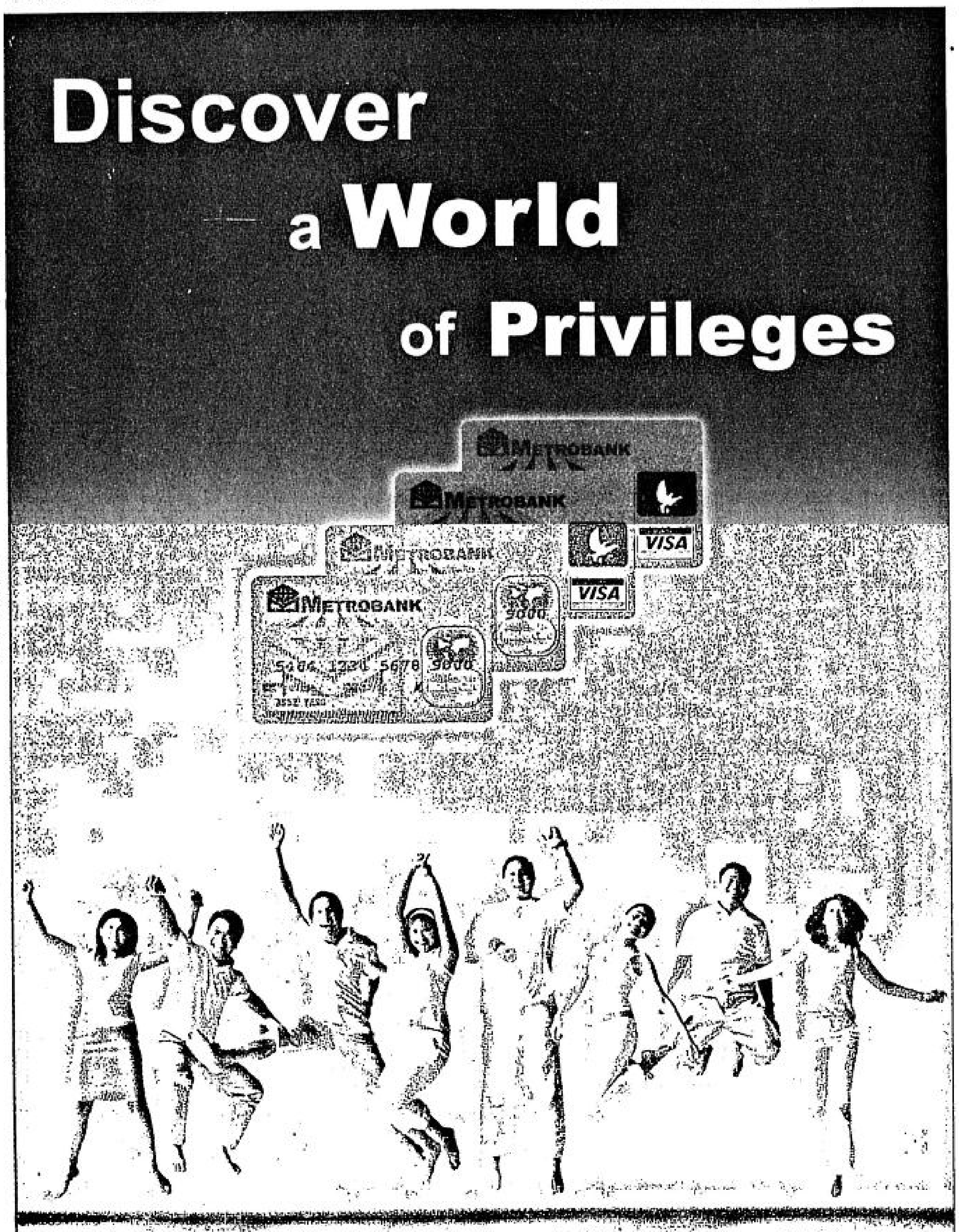
It is also in this reasoning that he believes teaching to be a wonderful learning experience.

"By becoming a teacher, you commit to become a student all your life," said Dans, who has been in the profession for 19 years.

One of the philosophies he lives for is from his former mentors, Dr. Dave Sackett, who once said: "Half of what we learn in medical school is trash. . .we just don't know which half."

He combines his profession with his civic duties as he considers PGH as his only practice area. Dans, a devoted organizer, speaker and facilitator of Evidence Based Medicine training at the National University Singapore and Asia Pacific Center, preferred to serve and work at the premiere government hospital to help the less fortunate patients. Since 2000, he has helped raise funds for the PGH's Save-a-Life Project.

"I believe this was the best way to get involved in helping the community," he said.



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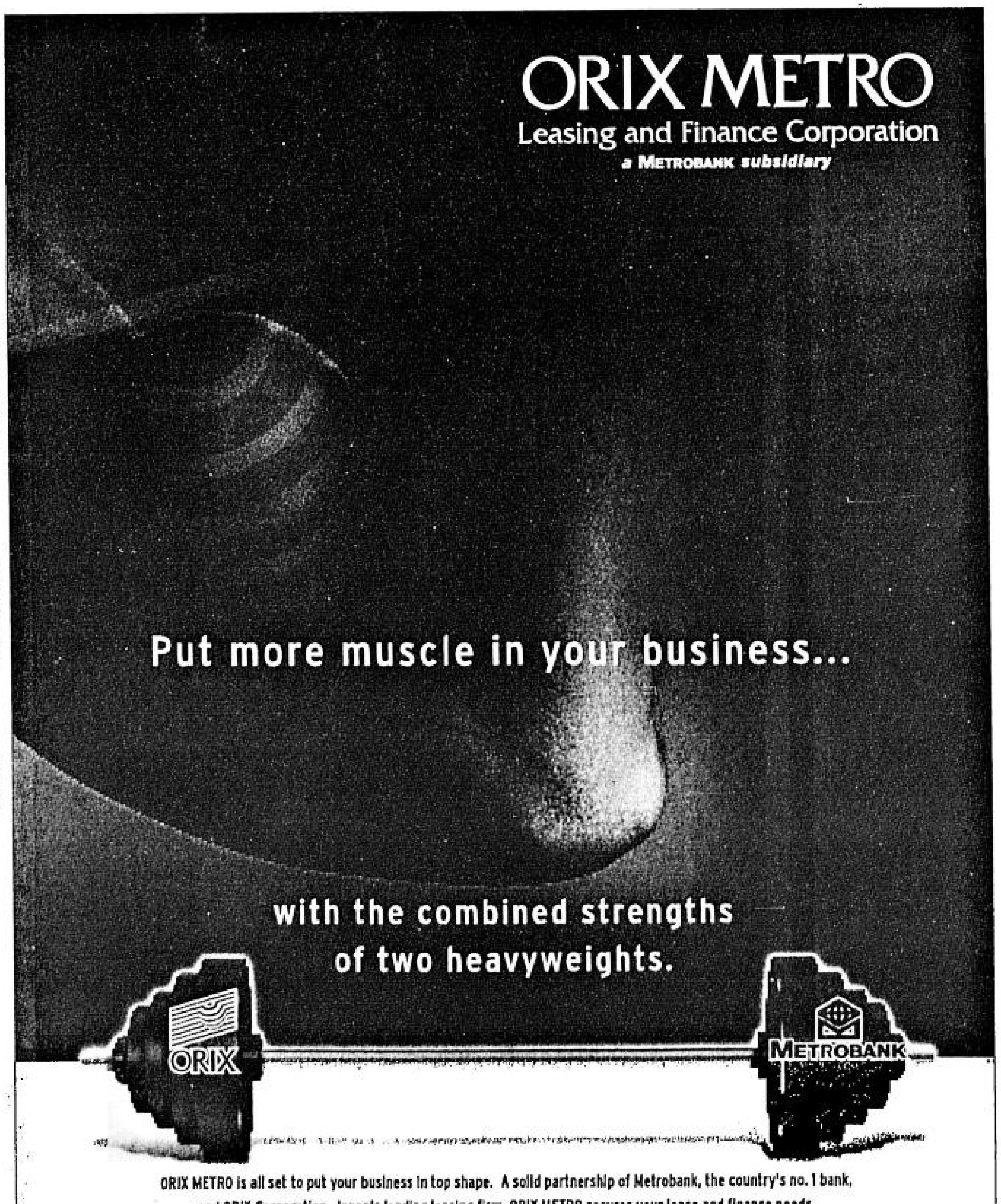
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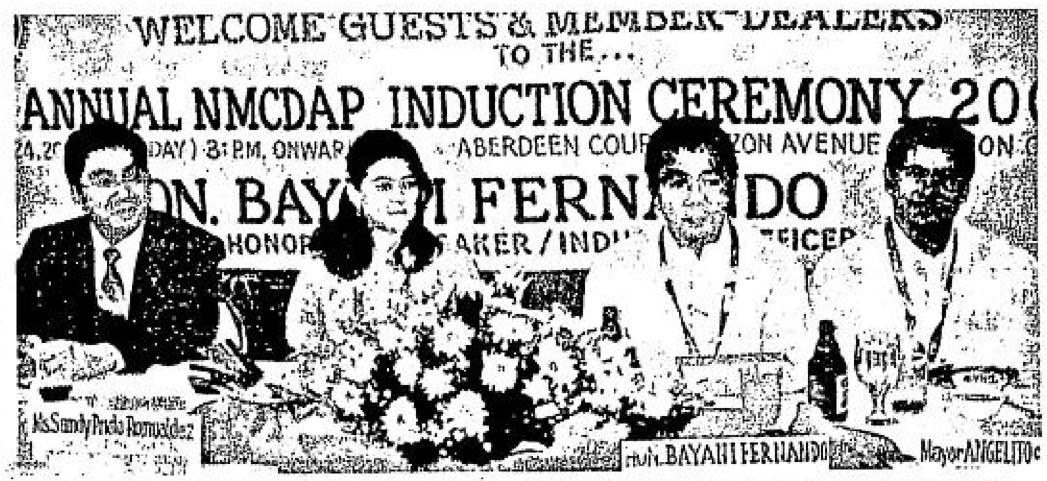
Newsdealers' association induction ceremonies

THE NEWLY elected officers and directors of the NMCDAP are formally inducted into office by Fernando, assisted by Gatlabayan. Shown are (from left) Ermilando Galos, Elino Miranda, treasurer Alejandro Celeste, secretary Rhodora de Vera, 2nd vice-president for newspaper affairs Carlito Corro, 3rd vice-president for magazine affairs, 1st vice-president for comics affairs Marianito Lumayno, president Ramon Tapales, and executive director Araceli Suyat.

OUTGOING NMCDAP president Cresencio Tabianan (left) hands over the symbol of leadership to incoming president Tapales during the turnover ceremonies prior to the induction of the newly elected officers and board members of the association. In his acceptance speech, Tapales challenged all newsdealers to be united and active in further strengthening the industry. He will be focusing mainly on implementing the recently signed MOA between NMCDAP and MMDA, including the extension of financial assistance to fellow newsdealers in dire straits.

Photos by August dela Cruz

THE MEMORANDUM of agreement allowing newspapers to be sold along sidewalks in specially designed racks has given a ray of hope to newsdealers, newsboys and newsstand vendors. This development allows greater newspaper accessibility to readers, at the same time helping vendors improve their newspaper sales. Signing the MOA is Fernando and NMCDAP president Ramon Tapales with Angelito Gatlabayan. Witnessing the signing are (second row, from left) Northern Luzon Chapter head Lerma Carillo, Rhodora de Vera, Marianito Lumayno, Elino Miranda, Carlito Corro, Southern Luzon Chapter head Col. Floro Maniego and Ermilando Galos. Third row, from left, are Estefano Lazaro, Edward Aquino, Esther Coral, Pablo Gagaboan, Remigio Angeles, Christopher Benjamin, Cresencio Tabianan and lawyer Greg Fabros.



SPECIAL guests during the 22 Annual Induction Ceremonies of the NMCDAP at the Great Eastern Hotel include (from left) Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso, Inquirer president/CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, MMDA chair Bayani Fernando and Antipolo City Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan.

FERNANDO receives a plaque of appreciation from the newly inducted officers of the NMCDAP. The Metro Manila Development Authority chair, in his remarks before the newsdealers, is now allowing the selling of newspapers sidewalks provided that they be placed in specially designed newspaper racks so as not to impede pedestrian traffic.

PHILIPPINE

REINOSO (2nd from left) awards the certificates representing the computer units donated by the Philippine Daily Inquirer to be used by the NMCDAP local chapters in their information campaign among newsdealers nationwide. Shown are (from left) Alejandro Celeste, Prieto-Romualdez, Inquirer AVP for circulation Glo Lardizabal, Maniego, Carillo, Lumayno, Tapales, Angeles, Miranda, Benjamin, Coral, Gagaboan and De Vera.

> The NMCDAP leadership challenges all newsdealers to be united and active in further strengthening the industry, while the organization focuses on implementing the recently signed MOA between NMCDAP and MMDA and the extension of financial assistance to fellow newsdealers in dire straits

PRIETO-Romualdez receives a plaque of appreciation from Tapales after delivering her inspirational message to all newsdealers In her message, she urged newsdealers to be focused on their craft, be more resourceful, aim for excellent service to customers and be able to adapt to the changing times.

AFEX 2004

ASIAFOOD Expo 2004

13th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology

All about food and more

For four days, the World Trade Center will be transformed into the largest market of food products, machineries, technologies and industries when 448 participants gather in the 13th AsiaFood Expo 2004

Have you taken your breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snacks-in-between? The next time you eat and savor the food, take into consideration the processes, the history, the equipment, the utensils, the businesses and industries that made the delight of eating possible.

AsiaFood Expo 2004 is the 13th International Exposition on food processing, packaging and handling machinery, equipment and technology that will open today until Sept. 4.

The largest one-stop shop for food and beverage is a gathering of 448 participants who will showcase of the most comprehensive and complete products, materials, machineries and technologies on food and beverage.

At the Asia Food Expo, big and small entrepreneurs, or even startups will be able to source materials for upgrade of their businesses. Even employees or OFWs who dream of having their own business will also get ideas on what business to start, according to Josephine Miranda, marketing manager of Trade Information Marketing and Exhibitions, the organizer of Asia Food Expo.

"Not only can people find important products for the food business and business opportunities but also seminars, consultations and advice by technical people—everything about the business of food," said Miranda.

"Asiafood is an important and anticipated event and since we've started holding the event, it has generated more businesses."

An event to look forward to is the first AsiaFood Expo 2004 Culinary Excellence all Chocolate Competition featuring the chocolate cake baking competition, praline competition, and without added sugar truffles competition.

The competition will further promote the quality of products and services of the food and beverage sector by displaying various talents of industry practitioners and showcasing the competitive quality of products that is being used in the competition.

The competition is open to culinary professionals, pastry chefs, bakers, chocolate enthusiasts and dietitians from various hotels, restaurants and baking sectors. The first prize winners of the three competitions will receive a free three-day chocolate course at Callebaut School in Singapore. Callebaut is one of the leading cocoa & chocolate partner worldwide.

Meanwhile, the 1st International Conference on Halal Food and Non-Food Products in the country will coincide with AsiaFood Expo. The conference will have a group pavilion composed of suppliers, distributors and manufacturers of Halal-certified food products in cooperation with the Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA), a government agency directly under the Office of the President of the Philippines.

The Trade Information Marketing and Exhibitions Inc, organizer of AsiaFood Expo forged a Memorandum of Agreement with OMA for its participation in the Halal Pavilion.

The agreement aims to bring into the country the Halal-certified food and beverage products, which the Industry needs in order to be more competitive. It also aims to establish a forum for promoting the local industry and gather insights on the industry of the participating countries.

For coffee enthusiasts, Beyond the Cup is an affair to participate in. It is a thorough course on the basics of coffee awareness which will be conducted for the first time in the country by Marco Caudini, founder and director of the coffee academy. The training discusses the origins of coffee, harvesting, roasting, blending, cupping and Barista training. This effective approach has created the Caffe Mauro Coffee Academy.

The lecture will be a condensed version of the main course which is being offered at the Coffee Academy. The three-hour lecture will discuss coffee origins, roasting and blending practices. It will also provide an overview of the Italian coffee culture, the status and prospects and its influence to the global coffee culture.

Last year's AsiaFood Expo has displayed 24 homegrown companies and 380 foreign groups that sum up to 620 exhibitor companies from 35 countries worldwide. AFEX was able to gather 27,906 registered local and international trade buyers and visitors and is expecting even more participants this year.

Asia Food Expo will be held along with three equally important events: Food & Drinks Asia 2004, the 8th International Exposition on Specialty Foods, Delicatessen, Confectionery, Beverages, Beers, Wines and Spirits; Food Franchising 2004, the 8th International Food Franchising for Business Systems Exposition; and FoodServ Asia 2004, the 4th International Exposition on Foodservice, Catering Systems, Supplies, Equipment and Technology.

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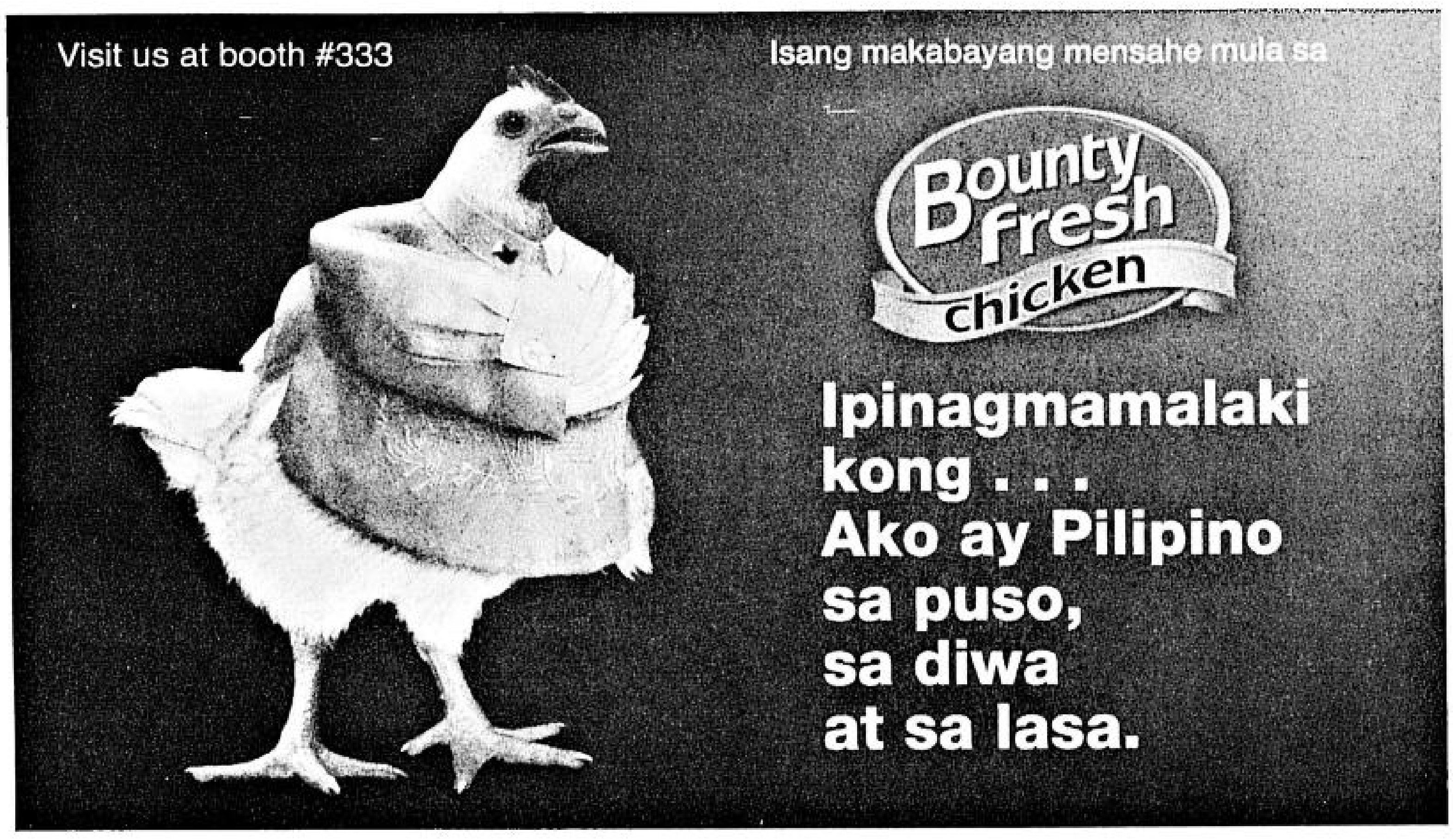
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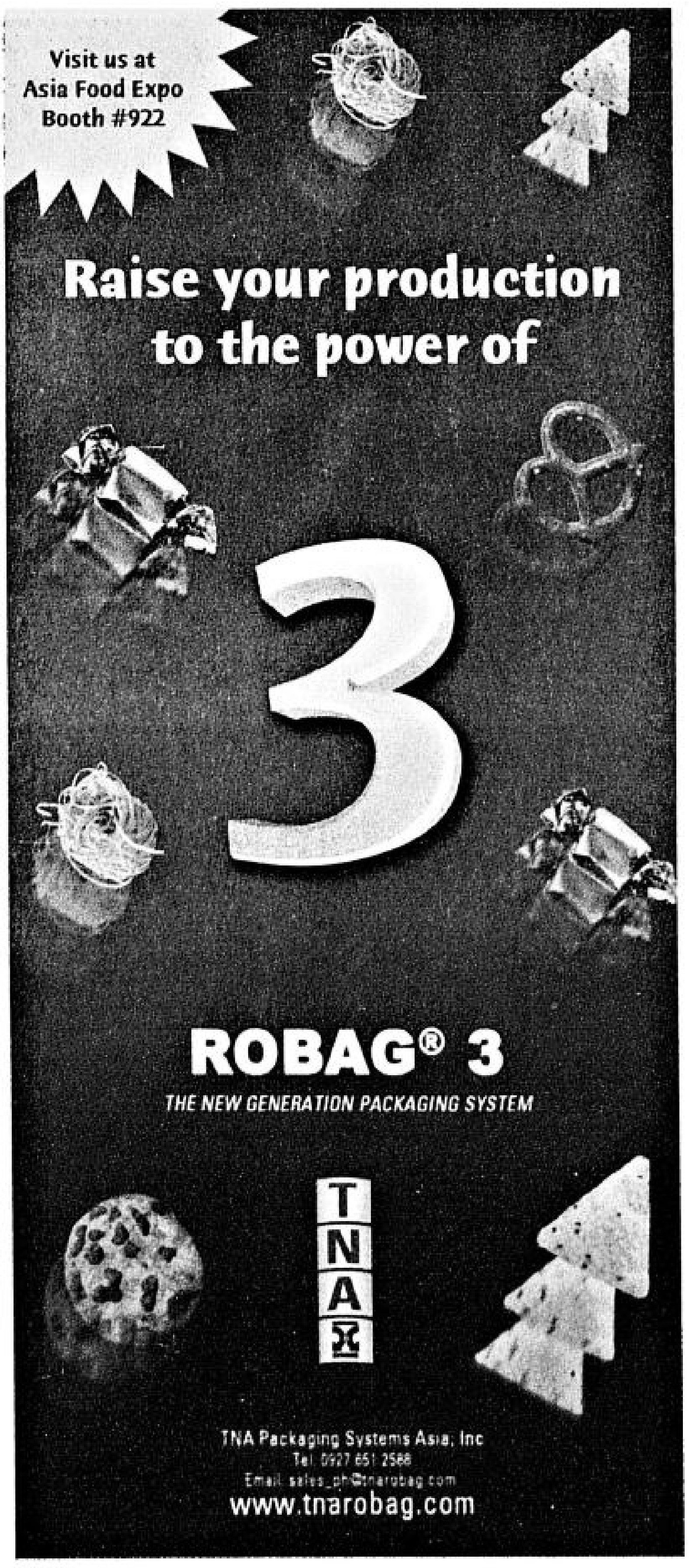
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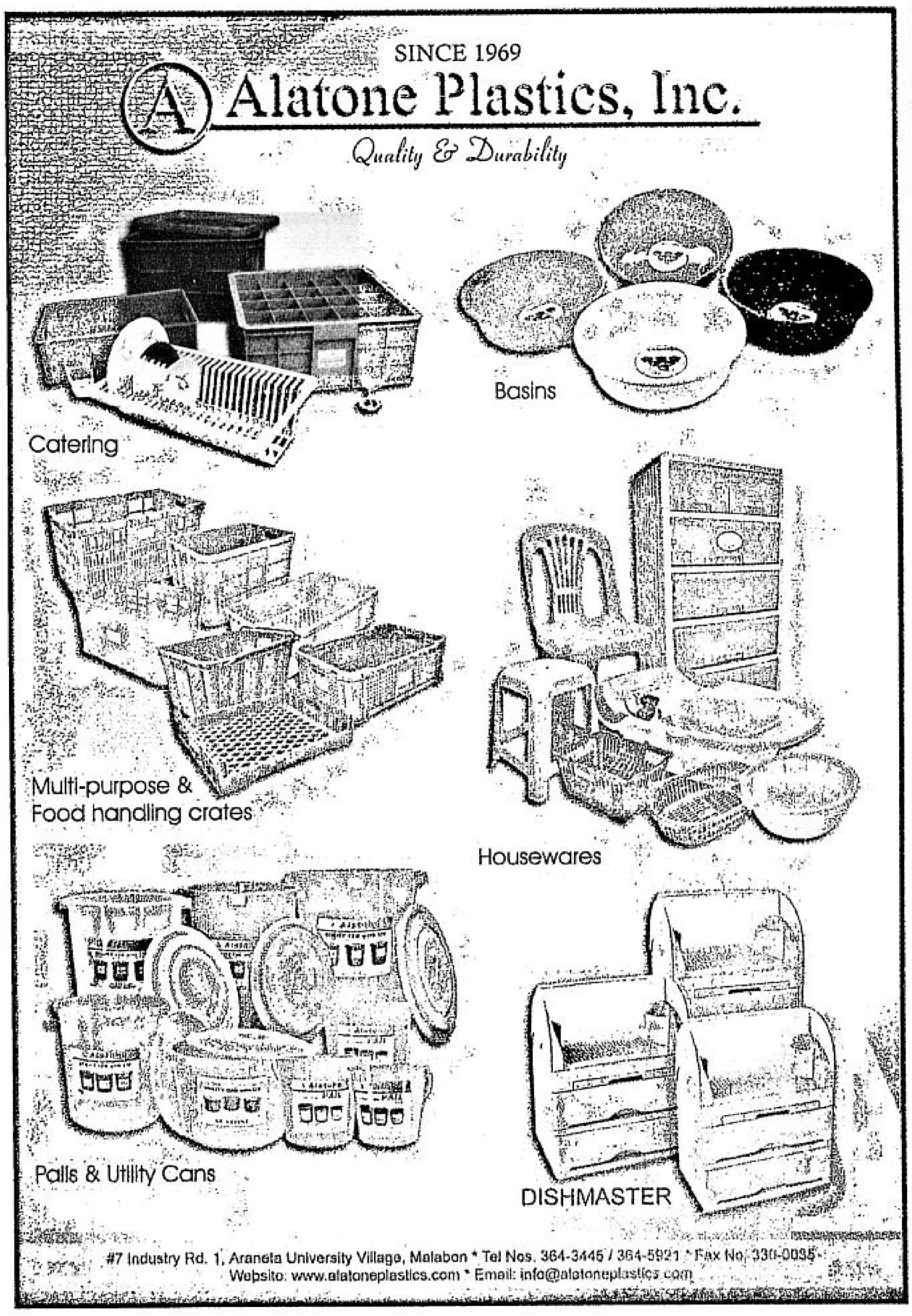
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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

This Husband enjoys shopping

Paul Husband helps Asian mall developers create high-performance shopping centers

By Kitty Go
Contributor

IT is one thing to build a mall, and it's another to create an experience in malls.

Paul Husband of Husband Retail Consulting in Hong Kong has built a business helping developers create high-performance shopping centers. Sure, he can hire the right architects to build a mall, but what he brings into retail development is really the shopping experience. Working for Hong Kong luxury property developer Swire and HK Land has armed him with experience in retail real estate and the expertise on things such as air-conditioning vents and consumer spending patterns.

There is a belief in business that success happens to a person who comes to the right place at the right time. In Husband's case, he has the right nationality. He joined advertising agency Dentsu-Young-Rubicam (DYR) in

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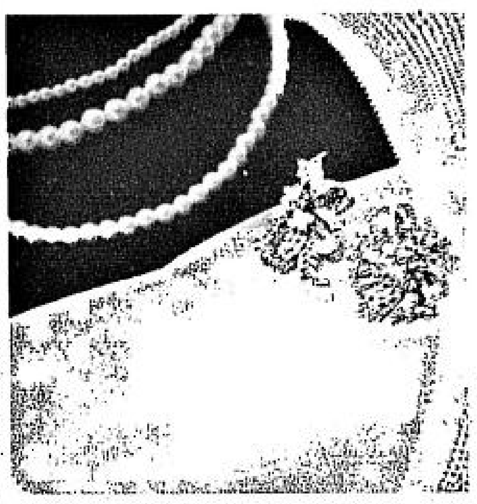
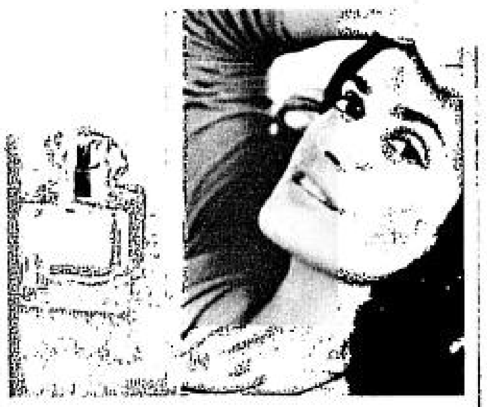
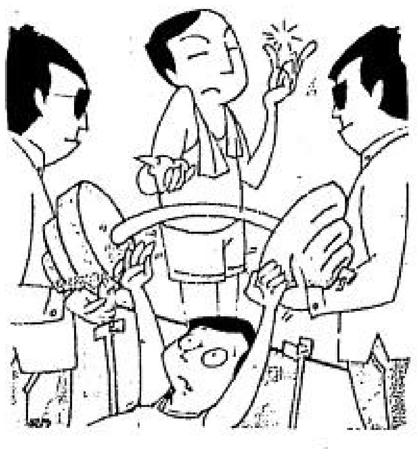


NEW tricks in accessorizing /D1

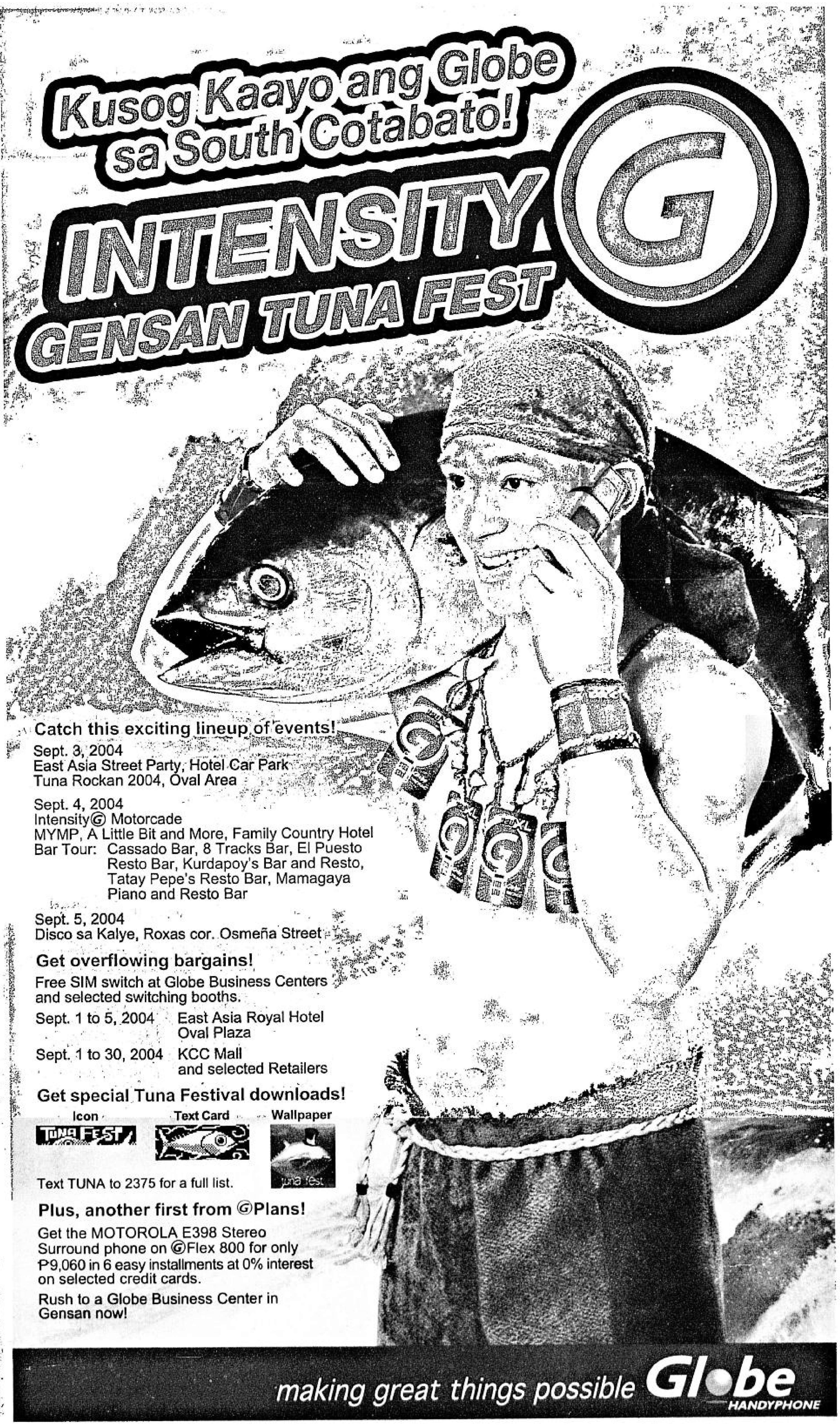
GOLDEN boy of Pinoy fashion /G1



BEAUTY breakthroughs from Avon /E4



CHEATING as a way of life and hype /F1



Kusog Kaayo ang Globe sa South Cotabato!
INTENSITY G
GENSAN TUNA FEST

Catch this exciting lineup of events!
Sept. 3, 2004
East Asia Street Party, Hotel Car Park
Tuna Rockan 2004, Oval Area

Sept. 4, 2004
IntensityⒼ Motorcade
MYMP, A Little Bit and More, Family Country Hotel
Bar Tour: Cassado Bar, 8 Tracks Bar, El Puesto Resto Bar, Kurdapoy's Bar and Resto, Tatay Pepe's Resto Bar, Mamagaya Piano and Resto Bar

Sept. 5, 2004
Disco sa Kalye, Roxas cor. Osmeña Street

Get overflowing bargains!
Free SIM switch at Globe Business Centers and selected switching booths.
Sept. 1 to 5, 2004 East Asia Royal Hotel Oval Plaza
Sept. 1 to 30, 2004 KCC Mall and selected Retailers

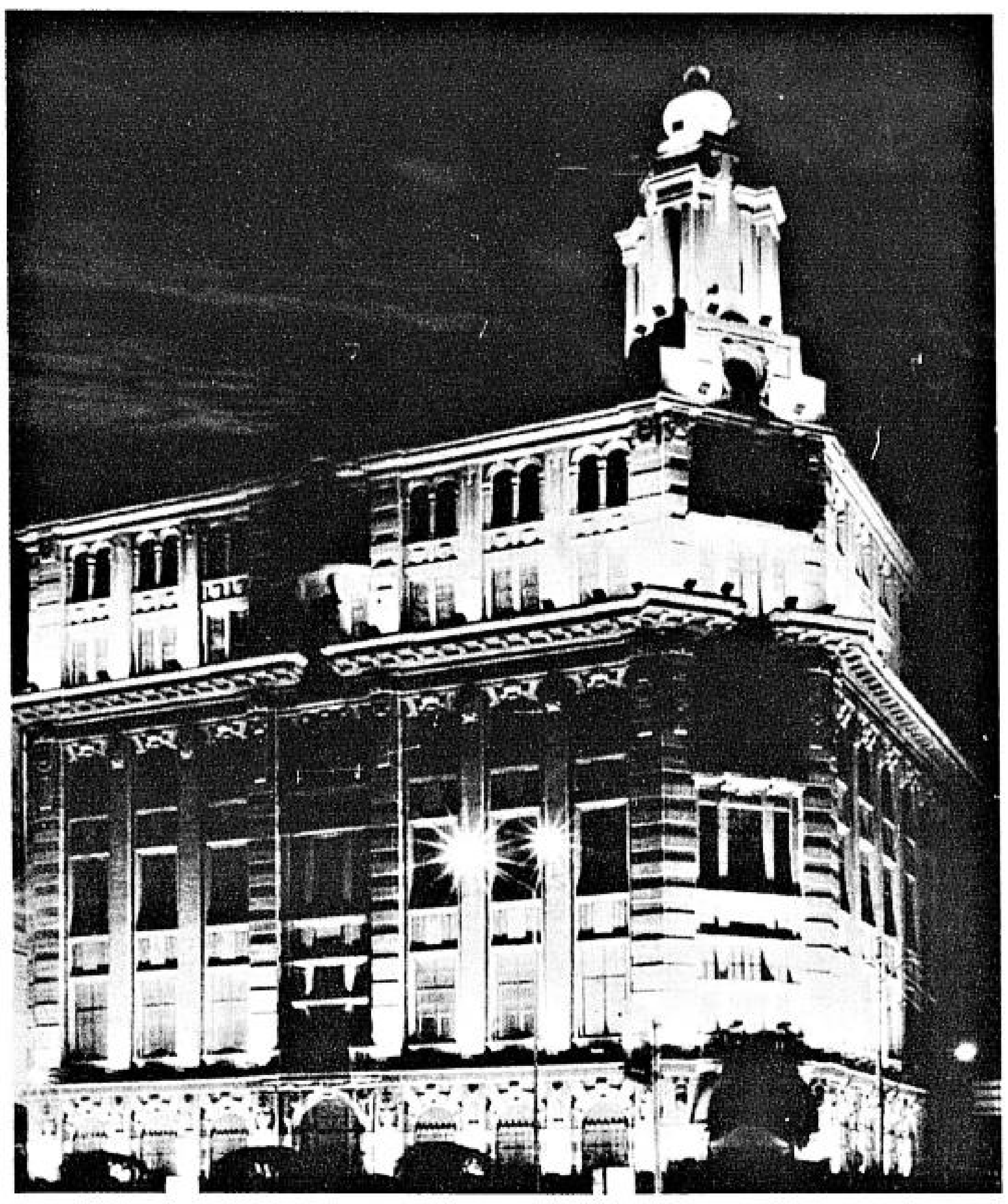
Get special Tuna Festival downloads!
Icon Text Card Wallpaper
Text TUNA to 2375 for a full list.

Plus, another first from ⒼPlans!
Get the MOTOROLA E398 Stereo Surround phone on ⒼFlex 800 for only ₱9,060 in 6 easy installments at 0% interest on selected credit cards.
Rush to a Globe Business Center in Gensan now!

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

BANGKOK's high-end mall Gaysorn Plaza consulted with Husband, whose retail planning company performs services that range from design themes and layout to marketing and leasing strategies.

This Husband enjoys shopping



SHANGHAI's Three on the Bund, which houses the luxury brands Giorgio Armani, Emporio Armani and Armani Fiori, is among Husband's credits.

From page C1

Hong Kong from London where he organized special events for a company called Joffins. One of DYR's clients was Swire, which owned the then new Pacific Place development.

"Swire wanted somebody based in their offices and they needed someone with a lot of event management, with emphasis on use of public spaces to create a sense of community," recalls Husband. "But they also needed someone conservative and British who could fit in with the Swire corporate environment so DYR thought, 'Paul Husband, perfect choice!' "

Husband retailing

Moving from DYR to Swire/Pacific Place meant leaving his big ticket clients of three years—American Express, Cathay Pacific and Lane Crawford—with whom he still has excellent relations today. Husband's interest in real estate and retail was to serve him 10 years later when he put up a niche retail consulting business.

"I was involved with Pacific Place before it opened. I knew all the tenants, every storeroom, every air-con room... I loved retail and then later [when Swire] acquired Festival Walk [in Kowloon Tong], I was also responsible for that," he says. "That gave me my start in the retail industry and what was such good experience was that Swire was focused on building a destination brand out of Pacific Place. There was close collaboration of retailers and I was at the forefront of that. It allowed me great understanding of the positioning of different brands, their customers and how to build a relationship with so many brands."

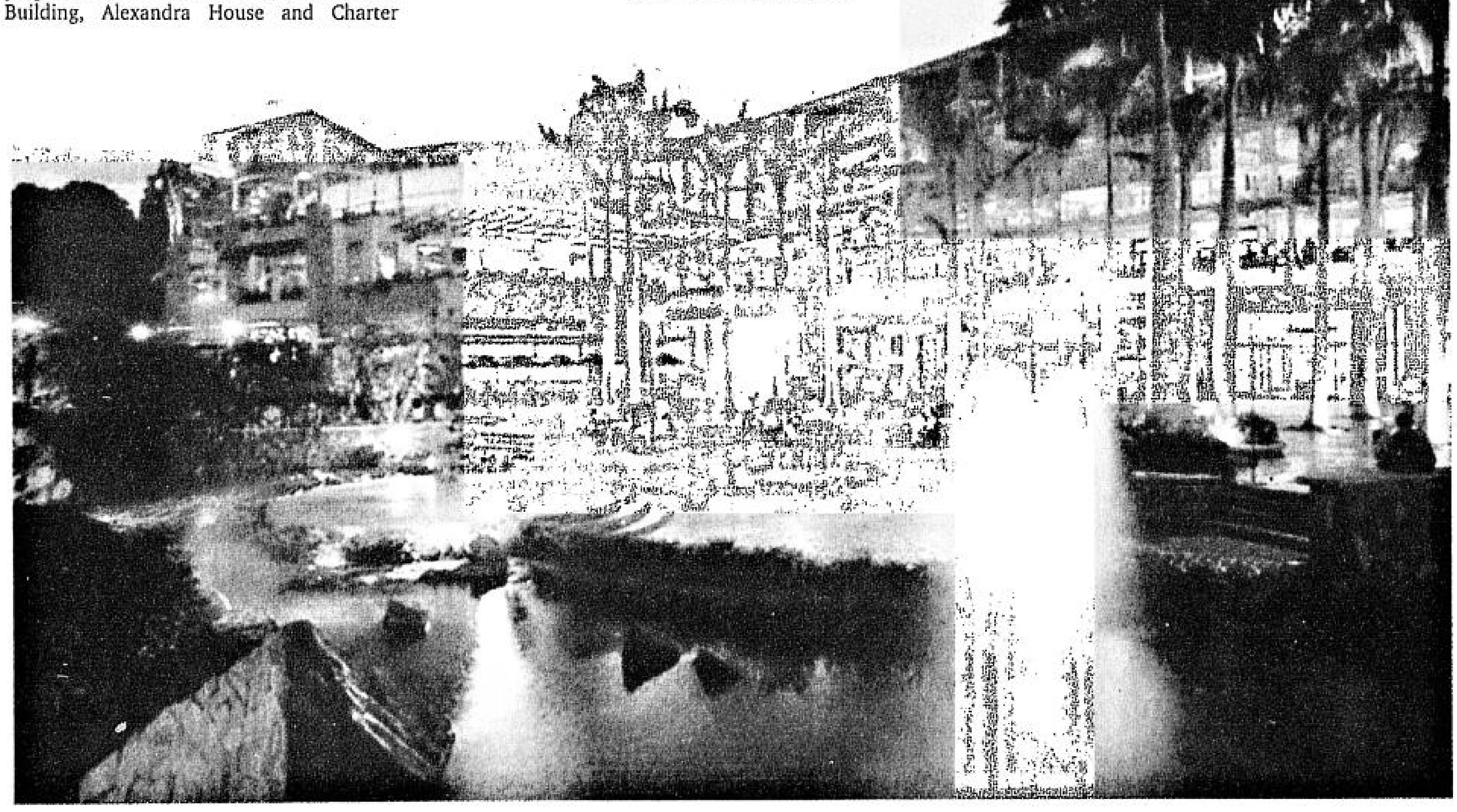
In 1998, 10 years after managing Swire developments (and not just retail!), Husband set up Husband Retail Consulting because he saw there were major changes happening at retail not only in mature markets like Hong Kong, but also in emerging markets like China "that hardly had any shopping centers and that were department store-dominated." Developers needed help establishing retail businesses in countries where the MTR railways were making destinations accessible very quickly and conveniently and where competition was going to force developers to "rethink, refurbish and re-tenant."

First client

His first client: Hong Kong Land, developers of the famous and luxurious Central shopping destinations such as Landmark, Prince's Building, Alexandra House and Charter House. This time, Husband came at the right time, pitching his services when HK Land was beginning a major refurbishing project (still ongoing). HK Land generally does large-scale refurbishment every 10-15 years while minor ones are ongoing.

HONG KONG'S Charter House in the central district (above) and Makati's Greenbelt 3 (below), winner of the 2004 Urban Land Institute Award for Excellence, are among shopping destinations that availed of Husband's retail planning services.

Husband did consulting work for Ayala Land, particularly the high-end Greenbelt development. Winnie M. Nazareth, vice president of marketing, business development and entertainment businesses for Ayala Land's Commercial Centers Group, says of Husband's contributions: "Paul was able to introduce us the principals of popular retailers and restaurants in the US. It is very difficult to get an introduction even if we were the premier developer in the country. The Philippines is not in their priority of expansion plans, but Paul managed to get us a meeting with them and actually invite them to come over to Manila and study the area as well as look at our retail developments."



Greenbelt 3 has won the 2004 Urban Land Institute (Uli) Award for Excellence, and the development is such a popular model that it is being visited by developers around Asia. Uli gives this award for excellence in land use and practice, and criteria go beyond design to include elements like market leadership and innovation, environmental protection and enhancement and financial success.

"Greenbelt is really a cutting-edge example of a lifestyle retail center in terms of food and entertainment and I love its use of the garden space," says Husband.

Nazareth explains Greenbelt's financial and aesthetic performance: "Its success is due to Ayala Land's intimate knowledge of the market, its commitment to deliver innovative and cutting-edge products as well as its close collaboration with its merchants. Proof of its success is not just its financial performance but the way it has changed the behavior of the market."

Benefits to business

Husband has also worked with the Hysan Group for Lee Gardens 1 and 2 in Causeway Bay, Gaysorn Plaza in Bangkok, Park Hyatt and Fortune Plaza in Beijing, Three on the Bund in Shanghai, Japanese retailer FrancFranc, The Venetian in Macao (a joint project with the Venetian in Vegas) and the Armani Group.

Does he have any developments catering to a market less than upper middle class? "I have Kowloon City Plaza, a middle market development near Kai Tak Airport where the most high-end brand is Giordano," Husband says. "There will be Park n Shop and Watson's and a new concept for the whole place for a relaunch next year."

Despite Husband Retailing not having any direct competitors offering full-service retail consulting, one cannot say that competition is not tough.

"We have many competitors who do elements of (our business) like tenant mix then they lease the place or they will prepare a media or marketing plan to launch a center, but I am not aware of a company in the region who does exactly what we do, with the experience and a staff for full service," explains Husband. "We do design themes and layout to the planning of the retail mix—which types of retail, specific brands, entertainment—to marketing and leasing strategy and the leasing itself, even launching the center to shoppers."

To keep exposed globally to the "latest and the greatest," Husband travels frequently and affiliates himself with a network of associations in America, Asia, Japan, Australia and Europe, bringing the latest in retail and brands who seek a presence in Asia.

One of the most important areas of the retail business is architecture, but unlike museums or public buildings, Husband does not recommend famous architects for shopping centers or malls.

"Many famous architects are generalists. They don't have that (shopping center) experience. We bring into our team a leading retail architect from the UK or Hong Kong with worldwide specialization and reputation. So that as well is an important part of our service.

"We look for specialized guys who can really create a destination, understand how people shop, how to expose them, how to move them, how to expose stores and the maximum number of stores to a customer, how to create environments that will hold customers for hours. Because as you know the longer you keep a customer the center, they're going to buy, eat and walk out having spent more money than if they stayed for a short time," he says with a grin.

E-mail the author at kittygo_pdi@yahoo.com

The best places to shop in the world

1 **Pacific Place in Admiralty, Hong Kong.** This is the most optimum mall for its customer base. It has wonderful public spaces and every significant brand for each price point for its customers. It has luxury goods and casual shops. It has a food court but also restaurants. It is connected to the subway yet also has parking. Most of all, it's easy to understand and navigate around. It's dumbbell-shaped and you can't get lost because you'll always remember how to get around, which is a failing of many centers. At 15 years old, it remains one of the highest-performing shopping centers in Asia.

2 **Greenbelt 3 in Makati, Manila.** This is a cutting-edge example of a lifestyle retail center in terms of food and entertainment. The Urban Land Institute says, "Unlike the enclosed, air-conditioned shopping centers typical of the Philippines, Greenbelt 3 returns to the public a garden and open-air retail and entertainment destination."

3 **The Forum in Las Vegas, Nevada.** This is the most successful center in the US per sq ft and that is the most important measure of success.

4 **The Grove, Los Angeles, California.** Another Uli Design Awardee, the Grove is a beautifully conceived open-air center with stunning public spaces including a lake and iconic shops that blend with the landmark Farmer's Market.

Lucky are those who know where to get BIG SAVINGS

Good Fortune Sale

From September 3 to September 16, 2004

THE CHAIN MARTS!
SUPER VALUE STORES

MAKATI Supermart ALABANG

Theater Drive cor. Commerce Ave., Alabang Town Center,
Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tels. 850-7687 • 807-2208 • Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:30 pm

UniMart

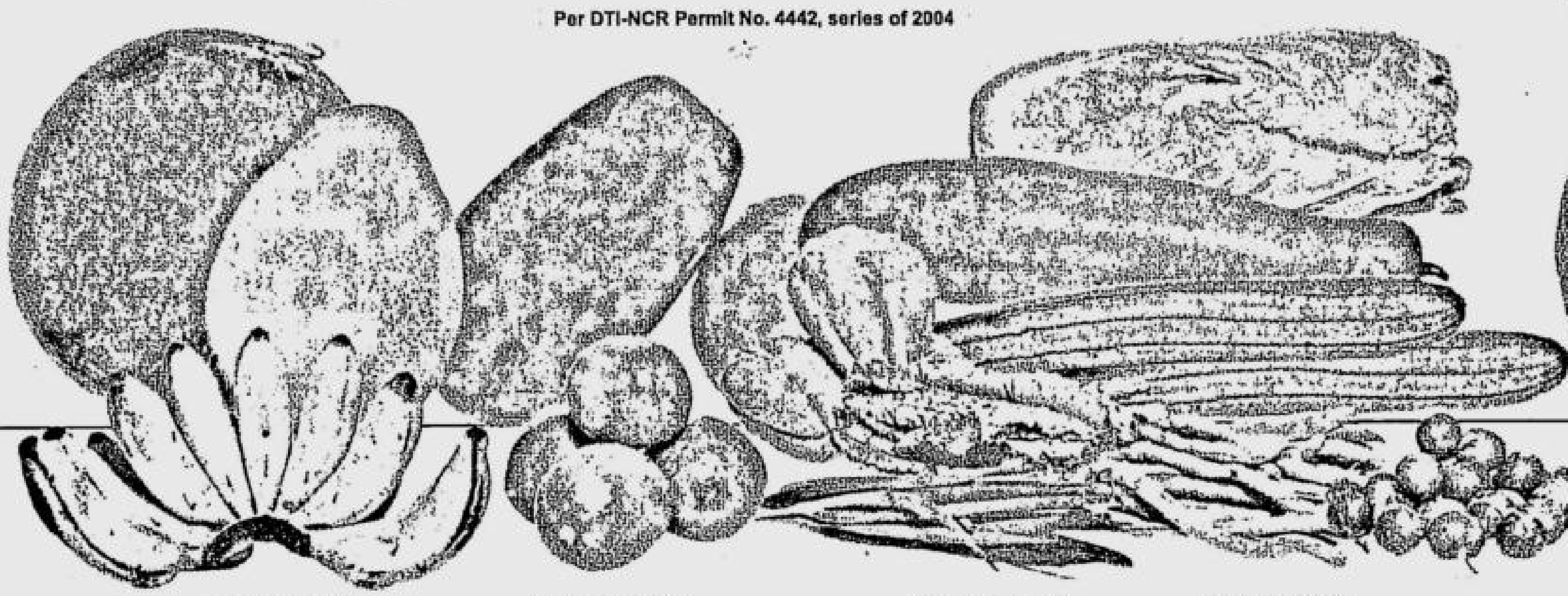
Greenhills Shopping Center
Tels. 721-0592 • 721-0612 • Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:00 pm

CASH & CARRY SUPERMARKET

Buendia cor. South Superhighway
Tels. 844-7386 • 843-7382 • 843-3469 • Store Hours: 9:30 am - 8:00 pm

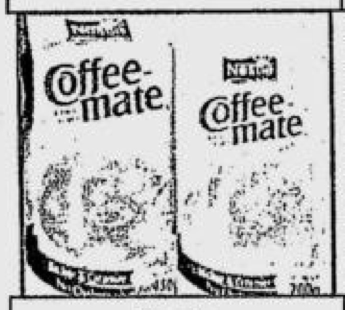
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4442, series of 2004

Kraft
Coleslaw Dressing
226.8g ₱75.50/bot
Seven Seas Viva Italian
226.8g ₱80.50/bot

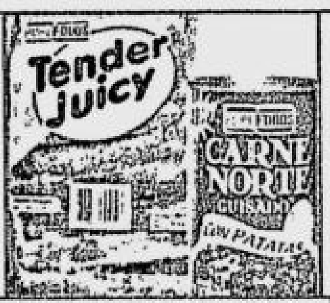


Upo ₱10.50/pc • Cigarillas ₱57.75/kg • Green Papaya ₱13.70/kg • Patola ₱14.70/kg
• Baguio Beans ₱31.50/kg • Calamansi ₱19.95/kg • Womboc ₱18.90/kg • Sayote ₱10.50/kg
• Latundan ₱22.00/kg • Leeks ₱36.75/kg • Davao Pomelo ₱73.50/kg
• Sugar Baby Watermelon ₱19.95/kg • Lemon ₱26.25/kg

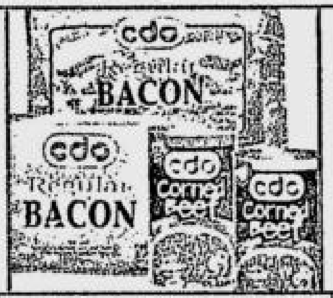
Wishbone
Thousand Island,
Robusto Italian
226.8g ₱75.50/bot



Nestle
Coffeemate 450g ₱62.90/bag
200g ₱31.95/box

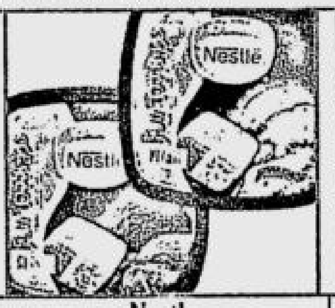


Purefoods
Carne Norte Con Patatas
175g ₱17.50/can
TJ Cheesedog 1kg ₱149.70/bag



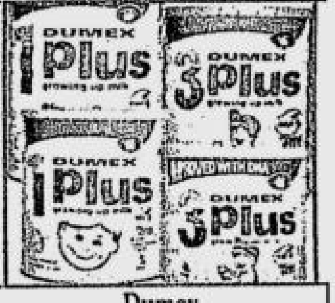
CDO
Corned Beef 150g ₱19.40/can
175g ₱22.30/can
Regular Bacon 200g ₱55.50/pk
400g ₱108.60/pk

Mama Sita's
Caldereta 50g ₱16.15/pk
Karekare 100g ₱19.60/pk
Palabok Mix 57g ₱16.15/pk
Menudo, Afritada Mix 30g ₱14.25/pk

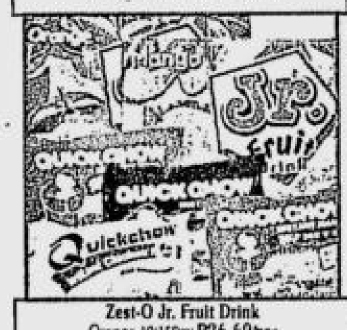


Nestle
Ice Cream Fun Toppings Classic
1.7L ₱165.25/tub
Supreme 1.7L ₱192.80/tub

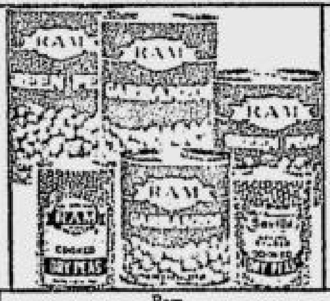
Ho-Mi
Chiliyab Instant Mami Noodles
Braised Beef, Seafood Combo
Pork Stew 55g ₱4.30/pk



Dumex
1+Honey, 3+Honey
800g ₱299.60/can
1.6kg ₱582.50/can

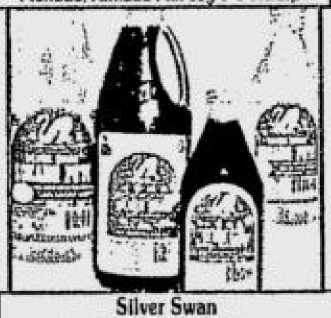


Zest-O Jr. Fruit Drink
Orange 10/150ml ₱26.60/box
Mango 10/150ml ₱31.70/box
Quick Chow
Beef, Chicken, Beef Hot, Chicken Hot
55g ₱4.25/pk



Ram
Garbanzos 225g ₱12.75/can 450g ₱21.30/can
Green Peas 225g ₱11.20/can 450g ₱16.40/can
Dry Peas 155g ₱6.00/can
Sevilla
Dry Peas 155g ₱5.80/can

Century
Tuna Flakes Veg. Oil, Hot & Spicy
180g ₱22.50/can
Argentina
Corned Beef 175g ₱23.50/can



Silver Swan
Soy Sauce 1L ₱22.20/bot
340ml ₱8.30/bot
Sukang Puti 1L ₱19.80/bot
350ml ₱7.15/bot

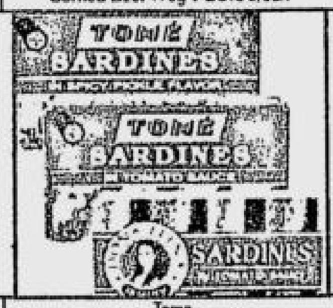
Hormel
Black Label Luncheon Meat 340.2g ₱65.50/can
Angus
Corned Beef 340.2g ₱51.50/can
Target
Corned Beef 340.2g ₱54.50/can

Colavita
Extra Virgin Olive Oil 250ml ₱88.50/bot
500ml ₱163.90/bot 1L ₱303.50/bot
Pietro Coricelli
Condi Extra Virgin Olive Oil 1L ₱325.50/bot
Pure Olive Oil 1L ₱300.50/bot

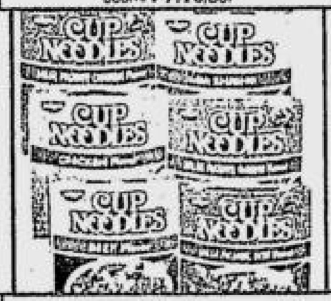
Old El Paso
Taco Sauce Medium 426.8g ₱83.50/bot
Mild, Hot 453.6mg ₱138.50/bot
Good Life
Hoisin Sauce 420g ₱78.50/bot

Sunsweet
Medium Prunes 453.6g ₱83.25/box
Jolly
Maraschino Cherries w/ Stem
737.1g ₱188.00/bot

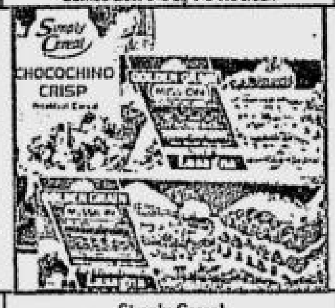
Country Time
Lemonade, Pink Lemonade, Iced Lemon
538.7g ₱115.50/bot
Kool-Aid
Grape, Raspberry, Strawberry Kiwi,
Grapeberry, Cherry Berry 567g ₱115.50/bot



Tome
Sardines Spicy Pickle, Tomato Sauce
125g ₱49.50/can Olive Oil
125g ₱59.50/can
Doña Elena
Sardines Tomato Sauce 120g ₱35.50/can

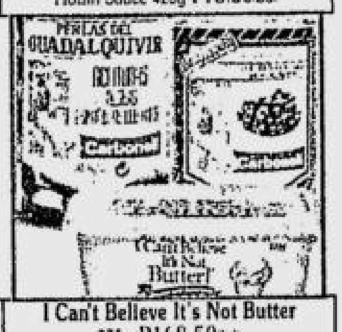


Nissin
Cup Noodles (USA) Beef, Shrimp,
Chicken Salsa Picante Beef, Shrimp,
Chicken 63.8g ₱27.50/cup

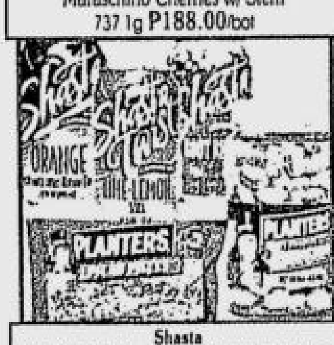


Simply Cereal
Choco-Chino Crisp,
Strawberry Crisp 400g ₱110.50/box
Golden Grain
Lasagna 226.8g ₱57.50/box 453.6g ₱78.50/box

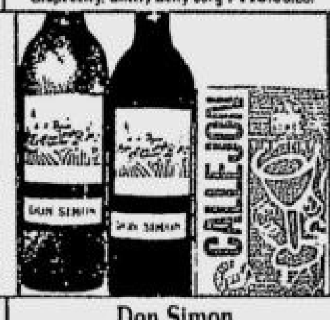
Kretschmer
Wheat Germ 567g ₱180.50/bot
Loacker
Quadratini Cappucino Tiramisu
220g ₱99.50/pk



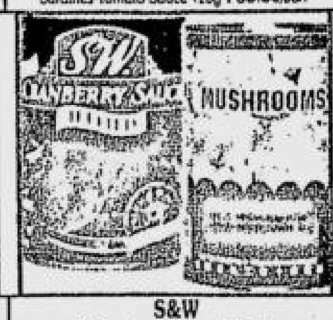
I Can't Believe It's Not Butter
375g ₱168.50/tub
Carbonell
Black Olive Plain 435g ₱55.50/can
Pitted 415g ₱58.30/can



Shasta
Soda Drink-Rootbeer, Orange, Twist Lime Lemon,
Grapefruit, Kiwi Strawberry 360ml ₱14.00/can
Planters
Pistachio Nuts 206.5g ₱165.50/bot
Pecan Nuts 170.1g ₱185.50/bot



Don Simon
Wine Red, White 75cl ₱98.70/bot
Callejon
Tetra Red Wine L ₱90.00/tetra

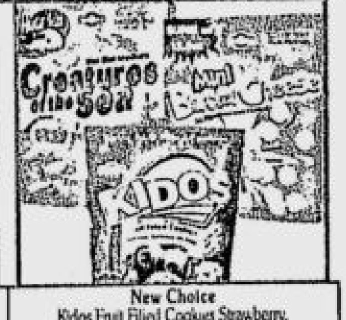


S&W
Cranberry Sauce Jellied
453.6g ₱72.50/can
Zi-Shan
Whole Mushrooms 425g ₱24.50/can

Vochelle
Chocolate Oval Almond Nuts,
Hazelnuts, Assortment Nuts
180g ₱140.00/can

Jolly
Fruit Cocktail Royale 850g ₱43.50/can
Zi-Shan
Lychees Whole 567g ₱29.00/can

Weight Watchers
Honey & Mustard Dressing, Tartare Dressing
260ml ₱107.00/bot
Lawry's
Garlic Powder 82.21g ₱161.00/bot
Garlic Spread 113.4g ₱101.00/bot



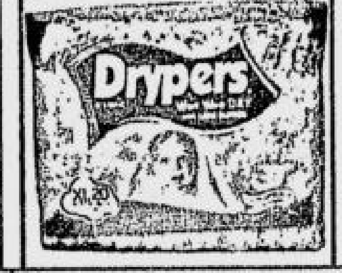
New Choice
Kidos Fruit Filled Cookies Strawberry,
Blueberry 225g ₱53.50/pk
Mini Round Crackers, Mini Butter Cheese Crackers
362g ₱52.80/box Creatures Of The Sea
340g ₱52.80/box

Quaker
Old Fashioned Oats, Quick Oats
1190.7g ₱140.50/can
453.6g ₱80.50/can

Rejoice
Revive Shampoo 400ml ₱144.70/bot
Conditioner 200ml ₱71.30/bot
Safeguard
Papaya 135g ₱32.90/pc
Downy
Sunrise Fresh [illegible] ₱133.95/bag

Axion
Baking Soda Citrus Extract
200g ₱20.50/tub 400g ₱36.95/tub
Colgate
Total Plus Whitening 160g ₱60.00/tube

Sensodyne
Original 130g ₱199.70/tube 25g ₱48.00/tube
Fresh Mint 120g ₱186.75/tube 60g ₱111.40/tube
Fresh Mint Gel, Baking Soda
100g ₱155.00/tube



Drypers
Wee Wee Dry Diapers Cony Pack Large-
24's ₱186.00/bag XL 20's ₱174.00/bag
Jumbo Pack Large 48's ₱365.00/bag
XL 40's ₱340.00/bag

Pronto
Liquid Wax Natural, Red 1L ₱192.10/bot
Pledge
Lemon 300ml ₱135.80/can 400ml ₱163.00/can
Baygon
Tik WB, KB 420g ₱181.35/can

Perwoll
Mild Liquid Detergent
4L ₱294.00/jug 2L ₱178.50/jug
Black Magic 750ml ₱90.85/jug

Cult of the chic

WOMEN'S RTW designer Hindy Weber Tantoco applies modern cuts and contemporary details to fabulous fabrics such as tweed, velvet, corduroy, lace, soft jersey knit and twill to reincarnate the luxurious look of Old World Euro elegance.

The highlight of Culte Femme's latest collection is the knitted tweed pieces. These are chic articles of fashion made of stretch knit executed in tweed patterns—perfect for those who want to experiment with the tweed trend but wish to avoid the discomfort or warmth often associated with the classic fabric.

Culte Femme's key pieces include mini skirts, slim pants, motorcycle jackets and draped knit tops with unique details such as metals, snaps and contrast piping—all of which work wonders when mixed together.

The brand has a following that adores the styles of fashions past yet thrives on urbane design and sexy, modern applications. Culte Femme rises above the challenge and invites Manille's babes to indulge in these luxuries and be as chic (and bratty) as can be.

Culte Femme is exclusively available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Robinsons Place Malate. Also available in a satellite store in Alabang Town Center until Sept. 18.

PHOTOS BY CLAUDINE SIA AND NEIL LUCENTE
MAKEUP BY SALLY LIM, MAC COSTMETICS
STYLING BY CHARMAINE PALERMO
HAIR BY BENJIE ANGELES

Double
Midnight
Madness
Sale
AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT
Love mall!

September 3 and 4: Up to 12 midnight
September 5: Extended Sale during mall hours.

Double Midnight Madness Special Offers:

1. Free Parking Tickets
   - Free Parking for four (4) hours for a minimum single purchase receipt worth P1,000.00 dated September 3 and 4, 2004.
   - Only parking coupons will be honored at the parking exits. Receipts should first be exchanged for parking coupons at the Customer Service Booths in Glorietta and Greenbelt 1 and 3.
   - A maximum of ten (10) parking coupons shall be given per shopper for single receipt purchases presented amounting to P10,000.00 and above.
   - Redemption of free parking coupons is on September 3 to 5, 2004.
2. Free 355ml Nestea Light for every single minimum purchase of P100 at the Food Choices in Glorietta and Greenbelt on September 3 & 4, 2004. A maximum of 2 free cups on single receipt purchases presented amounting to P200 and above.
3. Buy 2 Take 1 cinema ticket on the last full show screenings at Glorietta 4 and midnight show screening at Glorietta 4 Cinemas on September 3 & 4, 2004.
4. Get five (5) free yellow swiper games at Timezone for a minimum single purchase of Powercard load worth P200.00 made on September 3 & 4, 2004 at Glorietta 2 & 4 and Greenbelt 3 branches only. Free yellow swiper games are valid anytime.

For special rates, call these participating hotels:

Dusit Hotel Nikko	867-3333
Hotel Inter-Continental Manila	815-9711
Mandarin Oriental Manila	750-8888
Oakwood Premier Ayala Center	755-8208 or 755-8209

Service hotlines:

- Text 0917-6095900
- Phone Glorietta 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm
- Phone Greenbelt 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn

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www.ayalamalls.com.ph

See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-551, Series of 2004.

Dawning of a new age

LEE showcases a new age of streetwear in its latest collection.

For girls, there are vintage lace pieces that fuse disco-inspired styles of Studio 54. Mini skirts are shorter and washed in barely-there tones, to complement tiny stone-washed tees, mirror ball and stardust print top stovepipe denims.

Men's fashion is casual with a grungy edge. Hand-painted splatter tees and '80s graphic prints are de rigueur. Shirts with camping and hunting prints are for a man about town, while urban warrior types can go for vintage fit tees, quilted and hooded vests and army jackets with dark jeans.

Dark Denim devotees can choose from a range of washes that includes Vintage Wash, Dark and Dirty, Black and Sand, Dirty Vintage Splatter, Storm Wash, Dirty Paint Splatter and Retro Wash.

The limited edition "Disco Funk" Fashion Line F/W 04 is available at Robinsons Galleria, Glorietta, Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Metro East, Sta. Lucia East, Festival Mall, Robinsons Dasmariñas and Greenhills.

LIFESTYLE

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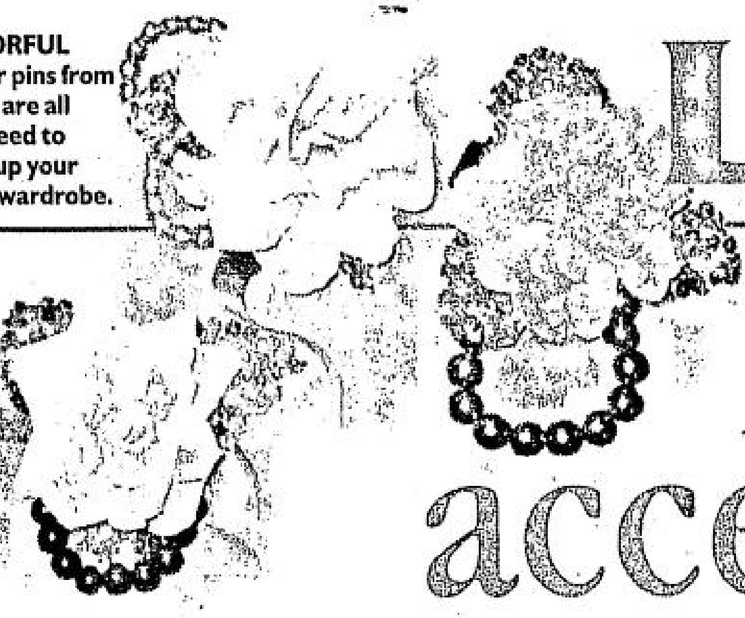

COLORFUL flower pins from Solea are all you need to perk up your basic wardrobe.

FASHION MANTRA

Accessorize, accessorize!

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Wear your brooches, pearls or ribbons any which way, as there are no real rules nowadays

CREATE a polished, lady-like countenance by piling on pearl strands. Can't afford the real McCoy? Try these fun, faux varieties from Mimi Cosmetics.

FALL fashion is all about embellishment and opulence, so it's the perfect time to pile on accessories upon accessories. It's definitely not a season for minimalism (neither is it of the gaudy '80s variety, mind you), as industry insiders have confirmed in their fall fashion updates.

Stylist Jenni Epperson and top fashion model Raya Mananquil specifically mentioned the metallic trend, fashion editor Rorie Carlos espoused the return of vintage-y brooches while designer Rhett Eala pitched the use of bejeweled clutches.

One of the easier, perhaps more affordable ways to create a particular look and adapt to the latest trends is through the use of accessories. It's also a great way to express one's personality. Those who are more demure will probably opt to wear a couple of pearl strands, while the more adventurous will don strands upon strands combined with twinkling brooches.

As always, it's about choosing pieces that suit one's style. So, for those on the lookout for new ways to update their wardrobe, here are some of this coming season's hottest accessories and how to wear them:

Pile on the pearls

Now's the perfect time to wear strands of pearls in various lengths and sizes. Fall is about polished femininity, and one surefire way of achieving this is by piling on some pearl necklaces.

You can wear them as multi-strand chokers or combined with chains ă la Chanel. You can even use them as bracelets or belts, especially when combined with chains.

For a more feminine and slightly whimsical take, match them with tweed or silk corsages or vintage brooches. Don them with your cardigans or twin sets, tweedy jackets and even casual tees and jeans.

If you can't afford the real McCoy, which can set you back a couple of hundreds of thousands, go for affordable faux and fun varieties. Check out Mimi Cosmetics at the Power Plant Mall for a good selection of funky, faux strands.

Or go to places like the Greenhills *tiangge* for lower quality pearls that are good enough to create this particular look.

Pin it on

Brooches and pins are the perfect way to embellish basic pieces such as a light wool three-button jacket or a classic

ACCESSORIZE/ D2

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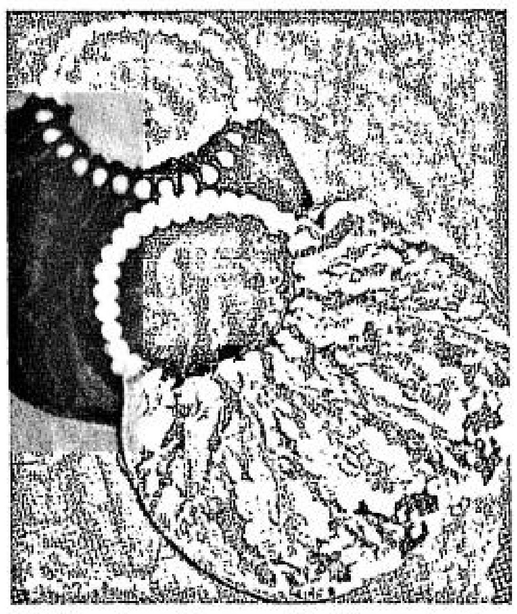
This September, Shopwise dares you & your family to strut, sashay, and show off your sassiest best at our annual Familya Fashionista Showdown! Witness all the glamour, as moms, dads, and kids alike vie for coveted titles in 5 categories: DADDY Groovy, MAMA Bongga, BRO-dacious, Sassy SIS, and Cool KIDDO. Winners in each category will walk away with P50,000.00 in cash plus a glitzy 1-year modelling contract with Shopwise. While home partners saunter off with P10,000 each!

So if you think you've got The Look, make the P500 minimum purchase requirement from the Fashion Department, express yourself and register* at any Shopwise branch between September 1 to 19!

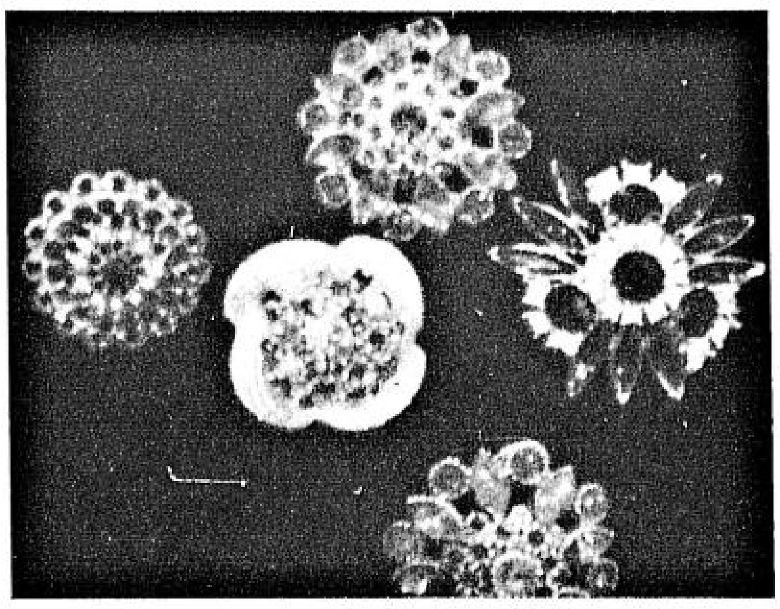
Promo Period: September 1 to October 31
*See In-Store Posters & Flyers for Details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1809, Series of 2004

[illegible] MAKATI [illegible] LIBIS [illegible] ARANETA Gen. Aguinaldo Ave. corner Gen. McArthur Ave., Araneta Center, QC

FLOWER brooches are fun and feminine. This particular style from Solea can be worn as a pin, belt or a choker.



LACE and pearl bags can feminize any look. Check out these romantic purses at Marion Godart.



VINTAGE-Y brooches are all the rage. Raid your mom's or grandmom's closets and *bauls* for some hidden treasures or check out the brooch collection at Marion Godart.

Accessorize, accessorize!

From page D1

cardigan. So, start raiding your mother or grandmother's closet for vintage-y finds.

Wear your brooches any which way, as there are no real rules nowadays. You can even wear them with preppy collared polo shirts and ordinary tees. Wear them alone or in sets or as an accent for your chokers and cuffs. You can also pin them on your totes and clutches to create bejeweled bags.

For chic, reasonably priced finds, check out Marion Godart, Mimi Cosmetics, Solea and Color Stone at the Power Plant Mall.

Ribbons and bows

Femininity is best expressed through ribbons galore, so start tying those ladylike bows. Simply buy a couple of yards of satin or grosgrain ribbons and tie them around your usual pieces.

Wear a satin ribbon around your suit jacket or dress shirt to feminize your look. Or instead of wearing a belt, tie a grosgrain ribbon around your khakis and jeans.

Shops like Carolina's have a wide selection of ribbons to choose from. Not sure you can create your own ribbons and bows? Try Mango's grosgrain ribbon belts that come in a variety of fun, feminine hues.

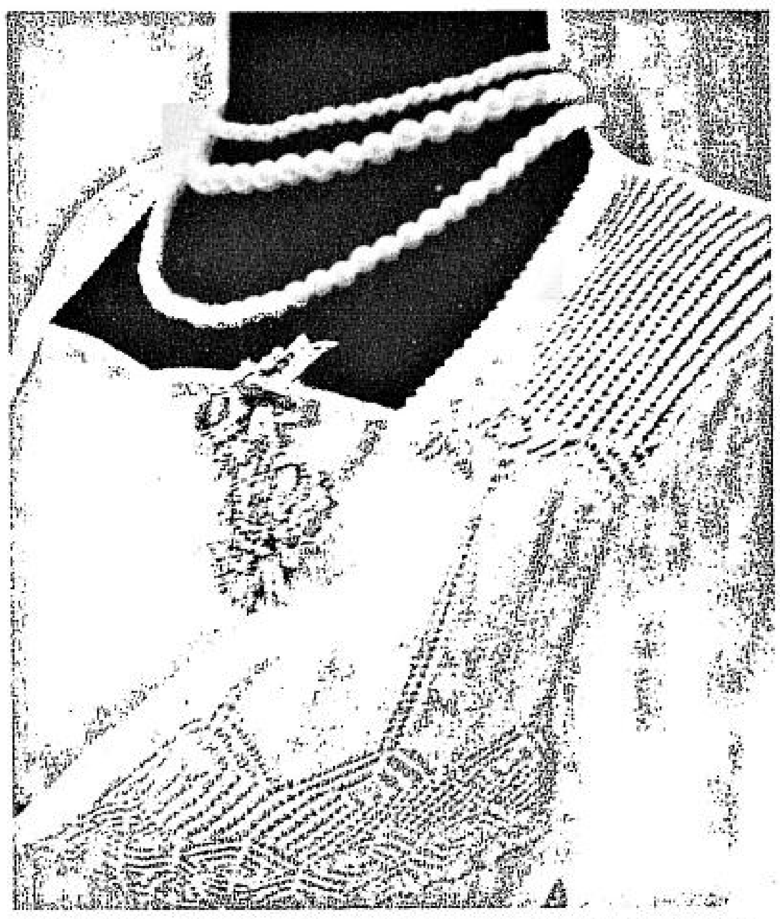
Add a bit of s-punk

Fashion icon Chloe Sevigny is quite the fashion maverick. Instead of blindly following the latest trends, she always manages to create her own unique look. If you feel the urge to follow in her footsteps and rebel from this season's Stepford Wife-like style, simply add a bit of punk into your otherwise ladylike wardrobe.

A choker collar that's just a wee bit reminiscent of the '80s is your perfect bet. Louis Vuitton came out with its own studded, chained version. Or why not throw on a dog collar from any ordinary pet store? Wear it with your feminine, vintage-y clothes to create a bit of irony.

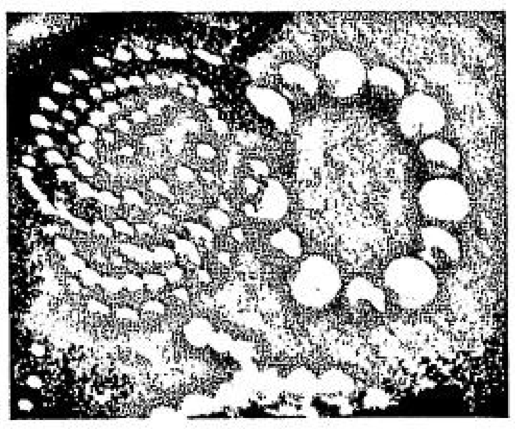
Next week: more accessories to update your fall look

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

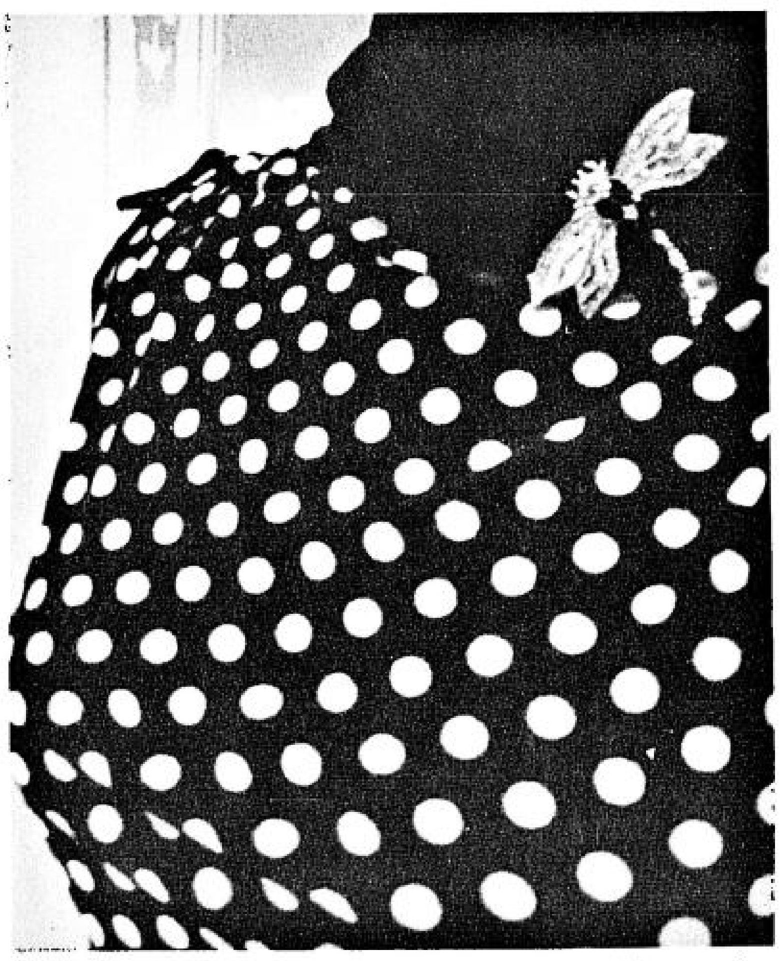


COMBINE pearl strands and twinkling brooches to achieve polished femininity. Pink tube top, lace cardigan, faux pearl strands and rhinestone brooches from Mimi Cosmetics

TAKE your cue from from Karl Lagerfeld and create your own Chanel-inspired getup. Lace top, assorted faux pearl strands and brooch from Mimi Cosmetics



MULTI-STRAND pearl bracelets are great options when you want to create a subtler look. Bracelets from Mimi Cosmetics



FOR A MORE classic look, a simple brooch or two should be enough. Brown polka-dot top and dragonfly brooch from Mimi Cosmetics

Acting on time

CHARRIOL'S new line of watches is called Actor. Its very name embodies all the elements that make it a one-of-a-kind timepiece.

Not only does the Actor have unusually large dimensions, whether in the Rectangle or Tonneau version, it is also designed horizontally, a total switch from the conventional vertical watch design.

Its extreme width makes the leather strap a very striking feature of the Actor watch. And as it is easily interchangeable, the strap can give the watch varying personalities, in the same way an actor takes on a different character with every change of costume.

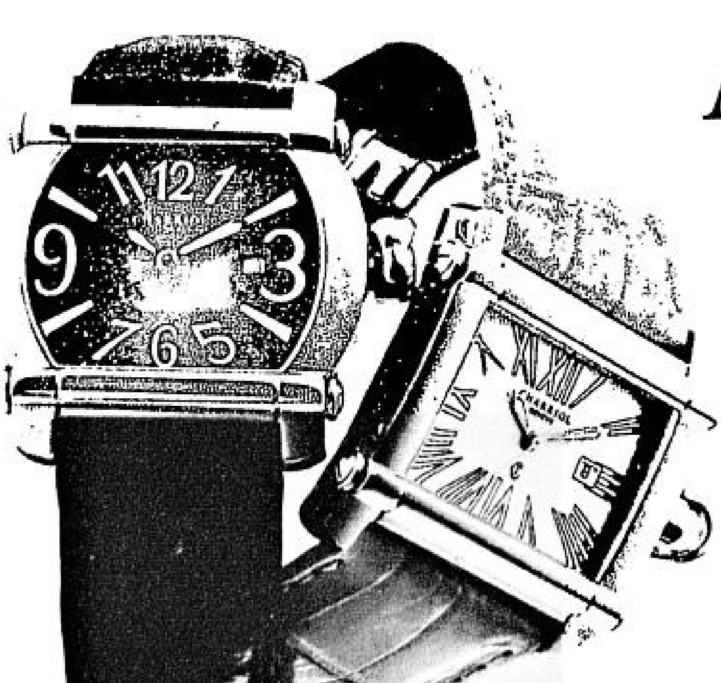
The steel Actor is instantly identifiable with its confident lines and clean edges intersected by two curved lines at 12 and 6 o'clock, which are fastened with four screws. Rectangular or tonneau versions are available in two sizes respectively, XL and L. Diamond case versions are also available.

The silver dial of stamped hour-markers or Roman numerals, and the white dial of modern Arabic numerals, lend themselves particularly well to the generous choice of colored leather straps.

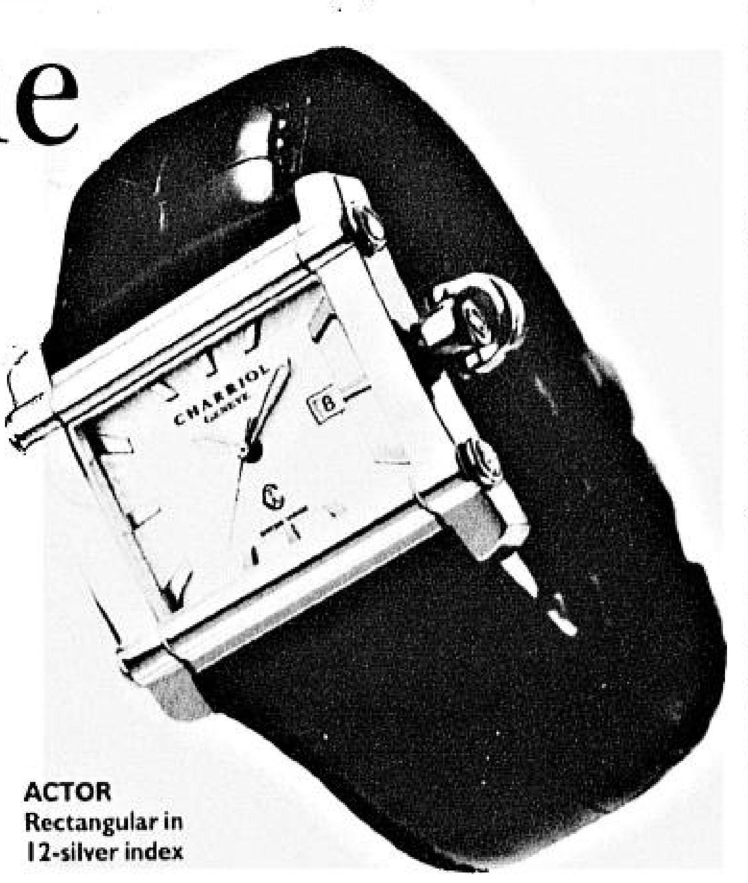
Swiss-made and equipped with ETA movements, Actor watches are protected with a sapphire crystal and are water-resistant up to 30 meters. They come with a two-year Charriol international warranty.

The Charriol Actor line is available at Charriol Stores in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center; Greenbelt 4 Mall; and Rustan's Makati, Ayala Center.

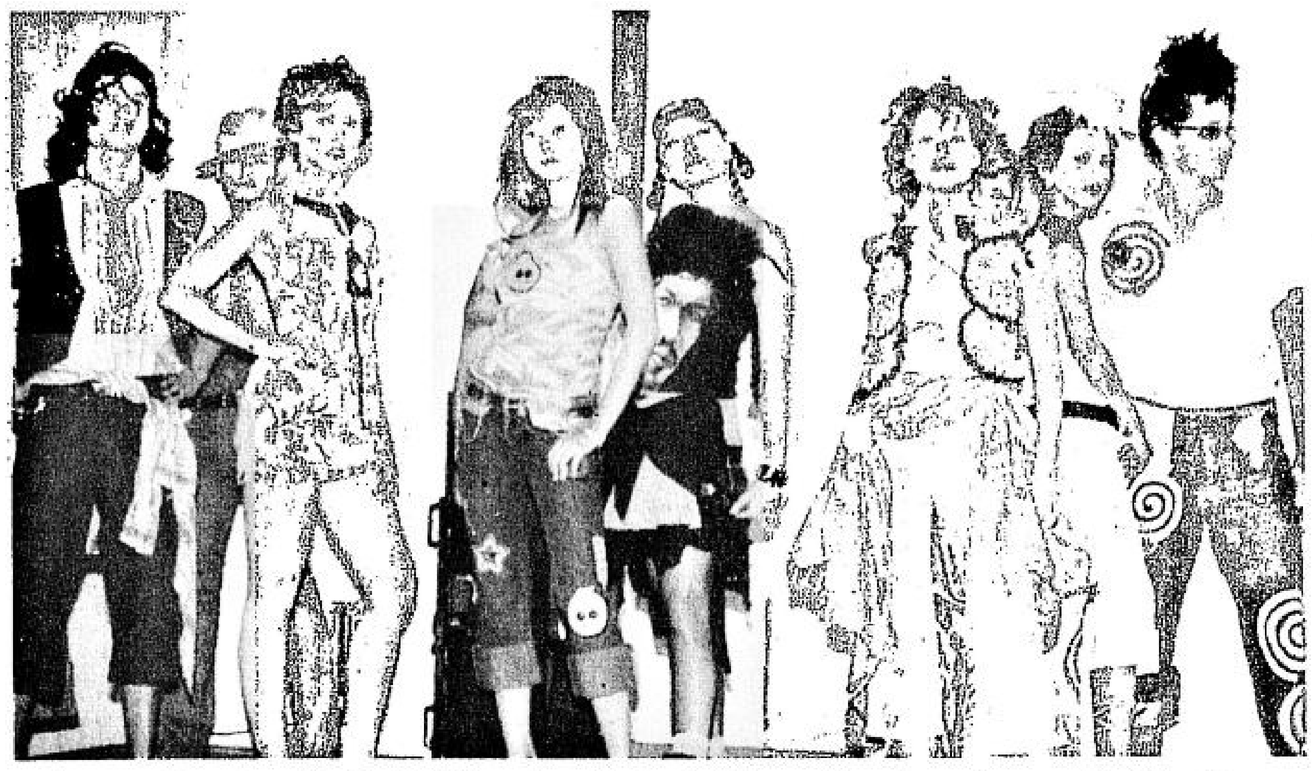
Charriol is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.



ACTOR Tonneau with Arabic numerals in black dial and burgundy crocodile strap; Actor Rectangular with Roman figures in white dial and saffron crocodile strap



ACTOR
Rectangular in 12-silver index



AT the recent Guess Jeans' Fashion Refashioned, models paraded the creations of past winners and finalists of the Young Designers Competition such as Norman Noriega, Richard Papa, Alex Pigao, Roxy Bautista, LZ Punzalan and Mitch Dulce.

KIDDIE FASHION SHOW The fashion show "Kids About Town" will be presented on Sept. 9, 7 p.m., at the ballroom of The Palms Country Club, Filinvest Corporate City. The fashion show will feature 71 kids presenting brands like Orange Juice, Spin, Big & Small, Mossimo Kids and Barbie. The fundraising event is for the benefit of We at Media Foundation, Inc. Tickets for the show will be available at the gate.

Dasmarinas hosts Marian Congress

THE IMMACULATE Conception Parish in Dasmariñas, Cavite will host the Diocesan Marian Congress until tomorrow to mark the 150th anniversary of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Imus Bishop Antonio Tagle will join his people in para-liturgical services today, 6 p.m. Tomorrow, delegates from various parishes in the Diocese of Imus will hold different congresses. Bishop Teodoro Bacani will be the speaker in the Marian Rally at the church plaza while Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales will officiate the concelebrated Mass at 5 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception church.

GOINGS ON

CONGRESS. The Pontifical Missionary Societies Philippines will hold the National Congress on Holy Childhood until Sept. 5 at Lourdes College Basic Education Campus, Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City. The congress aims to awaken among children a deeper awareness of missionary work.

MUSICAL. Paco Park Presents features the students of concert pianist Jonathan Arevalo Coo in a program tonight at 6. Admission is free.

DANCE. Korean traditional dances take centerstage in Concert at the Park tomorrow, 6 p.m., at Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

CONCERT. Concert at the Park opens its Memorable September on Sept. 5, 5 p.m. It features the UST Wind Orchestra. Admission is free.

"TAPPING the Creative Universe," a creativity workshop is set on Sept. 6, 8, 9, 13, 15 and 17, 7-9 p.m., at Rockwell Club, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell, Makati. The workshop runs for six sessions, and only one absence is allowed. Workshop fee is P5,000 (six sessions) inclusive of snacks. Call 4265375 or 9290230.

EVENT. Grandparents Day will be celebrated at Robinsons Malls on Sept. 12, starting with a ballroom dancing contest and fair. Call 6836137 or 6836100.

CONVENTION. Dr. Joanna Blessing Moore of the Stanford Medical Center and Dr. Alvin M. Sanico of the Johns Hopskins Hospital are the guest speakers of the biennial convention of the Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, Sept. 13-14 at Westin Philippine Plaza. Call 7124932.

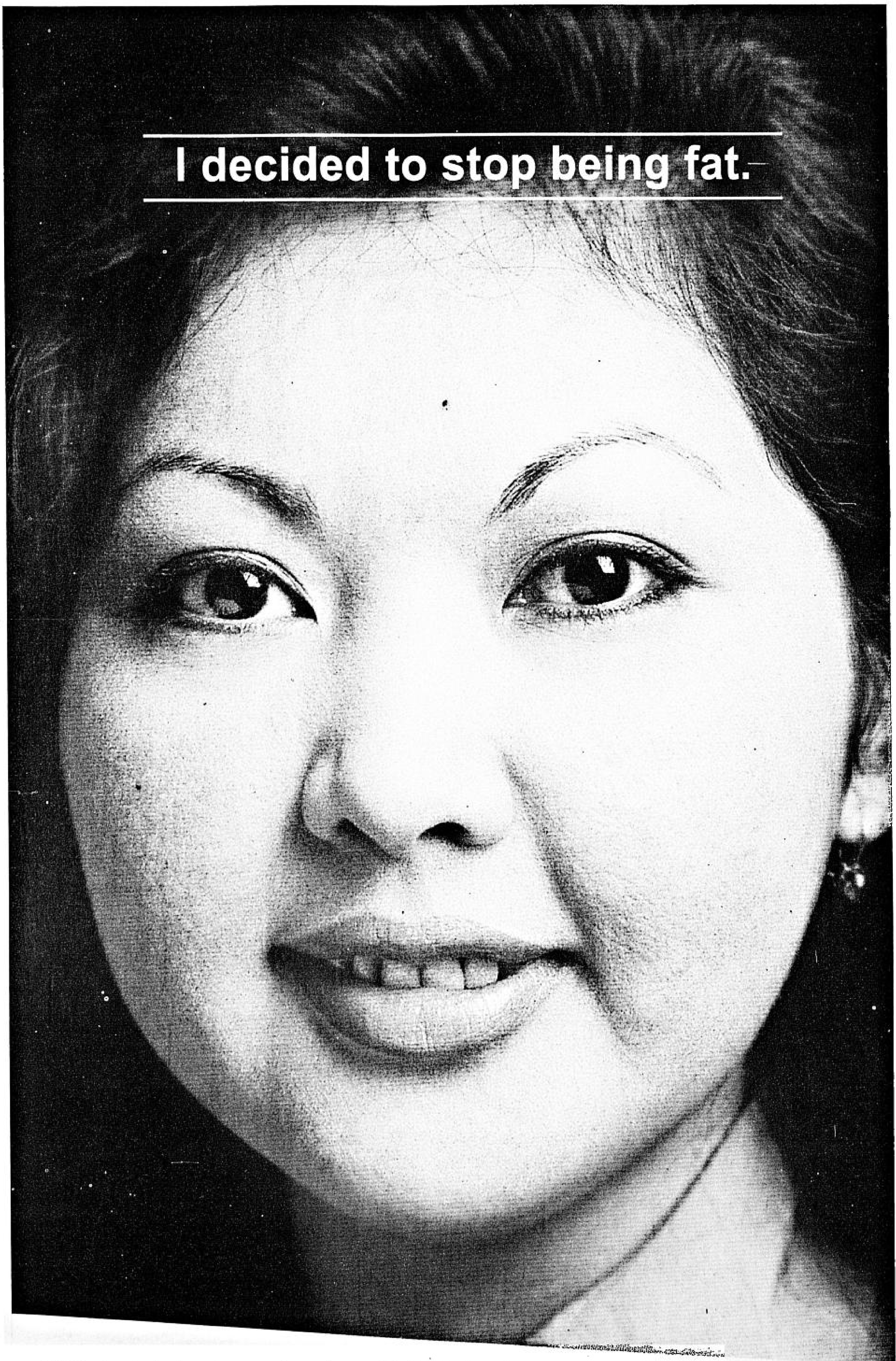
PHOTO EXHIBIT. The Oarhouse holds a two-part group photo exhibit of 45 Filipino photojournalists. Exhibit runs until Sept. 30 and showcases the works of photographers: Pat Roque, Gil Nartea, Jimmy Domingo, Luis Liwanag, Erik Arazas, Ernie Sarmiento, Mike Alquinto, Roger Alcantara, Ey Acasio, Aaron Favila, Erik de Castro, Bobby Ranoco, Cheryl Ravelo, Claro Cortes IV, Jun Sepe, Rolex de la Pena, Val Handumon, Andy Hernandez, Derek Soriano, George Gascon, Ben Razon, Sonny Yabao, Rudy Liwanag, Bernard Testa, Joe Galvez, Revoli Cortez, Reg Hernandez, George Tapan, Bobot Meru, Jun Barrameda, Alex Baluyut, Reny Pampolina, Andy Zapata, Toots Soberano, Mon Acasio, Edwin Tuyay, Jessie Casabar, Art Dumlao, Francis Malasig, Voltaire Domingo, Rem Zamora, Raymond Panaligan, Jess Aznar, Angie de Silva and Dick Baldovino. The Oarhouse is located on 1803 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila. Call 4508301.

BAZAAR. A lifestyle exhibit and bazaar dubbed "All About Her" will be held on Sept. 18-19 at the Forum, PICC. Evangeline Pascual will talk about home and relationships, while Maria Isabel Lopez will tackle femininity and sexuality.

HOMECOMING. The annual homecoming of Sta. Isabel College is set on Sept. 19 at the covered courts of the campus at Taft Ave., Manila. Registration starts at 1 p.m. This year's motif is Filipiniana. Call 5259416 or 5501491.

BAZAAR. For the whole month of September starting Sept. 10,11 and 12, the Ortigas Town Center holds the Ortigas Bazaar Center: the Weekend Outdoor Version. For all Friday-Saturday-Sunday of September, an outdoor bazaar, job fair and street party will be held.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Mortuary Association and Philtrade Exhibits will conduct a seminar on Mortuary Management on Oct. 8-9 at The Forum, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Call 8250804/8253482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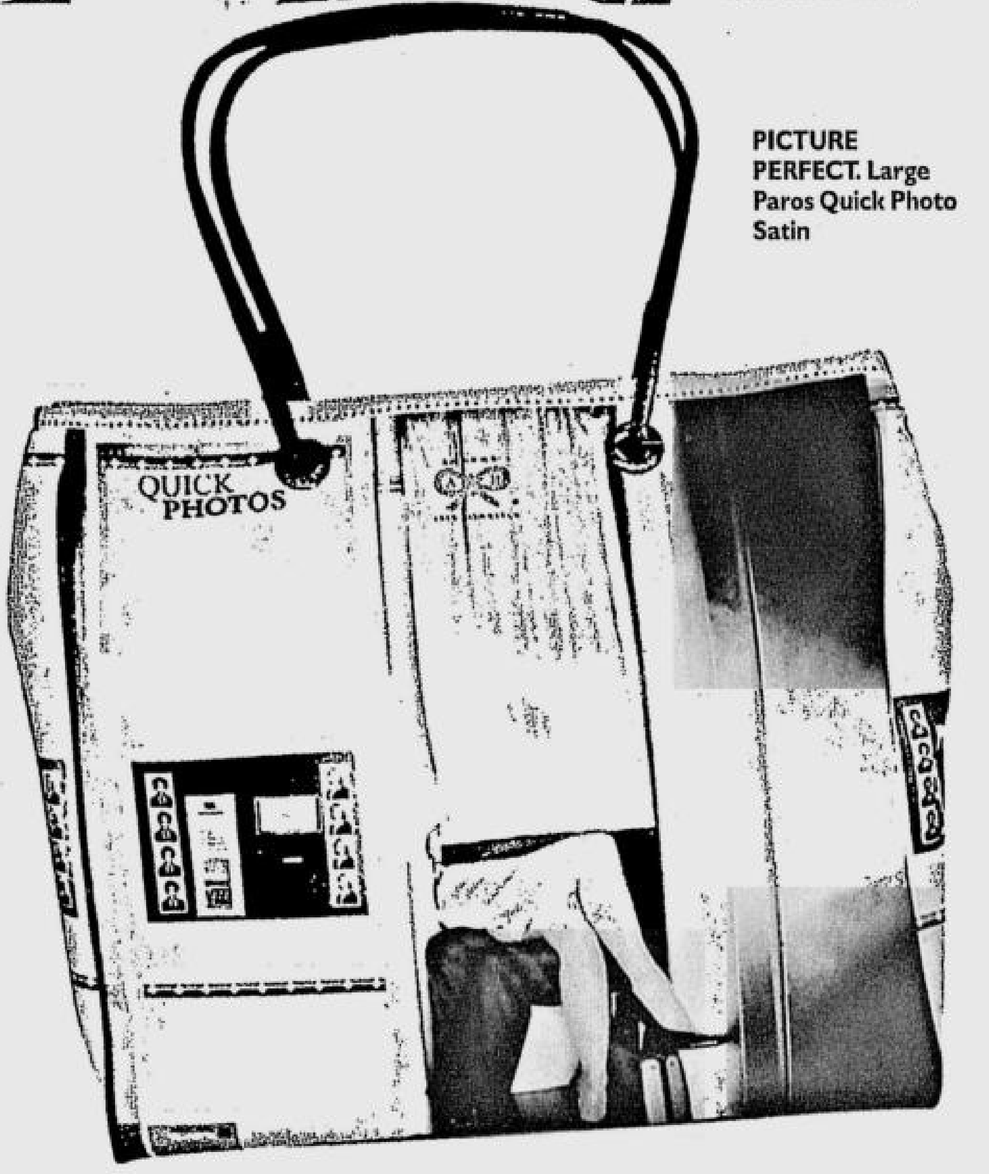


PICTURE PERFECT. Large Paros Quick Photo Satin

Witty and winsome bags

Anya Hindmarch uses humor and creativity to create smart totes

WIT, humor and incredible imagination characterize Anya Hindmarch's Fall-Winter line. Print images include animals, baby in a bathtub, friends in funky sunglasses, and romantic old couples.

The main line features an array of styles and materials: the big-buckled Stafford tote in pea green goat, the pillar box red patent Limes, and the petrol pony hair slouchy Embleton.

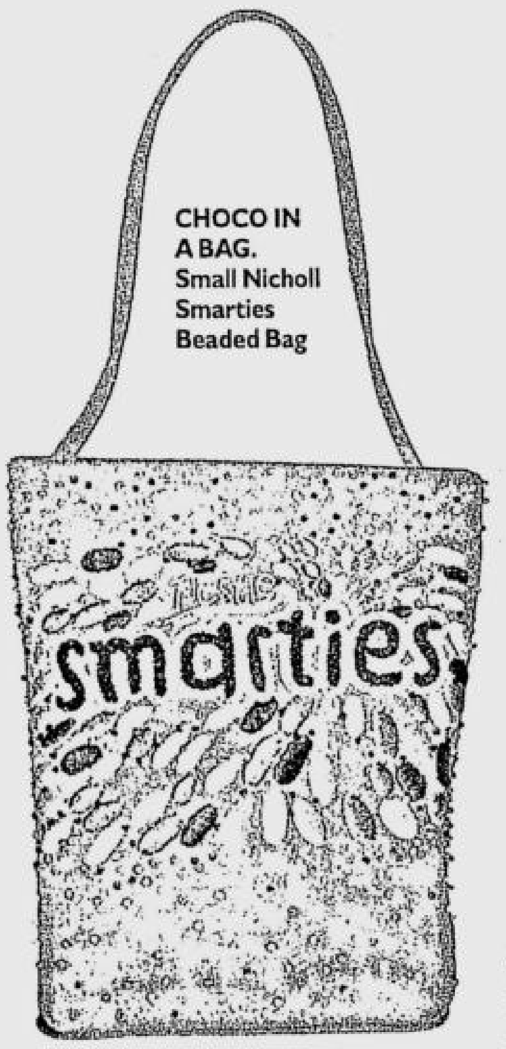
The infamous "sweetie" bags are back for evening. Maltesers, Cadbury's Dairy Milk and Smarties are among the most popular choices.

The classic Anya Hindmarch Maud and miniature Rhonda bag return in metallic, which complement the rich hues Hindmarch is best known for.

This season's prints for the Blue Label collection include a daschund wearing a pink wooly hat and a romantic 1950s image of couples kissing in a New York diner. The ever popular trolley comes with a print of kitsch elderly lady with a French poodle taking tea.

Anya Hindmarch is the recipient of the Best British Accessories Designer award by the British Fashion Council. From a small business, she now has 27 boutiques worldwide and several concessions in Harvey Nichols, Harrods, Landmark, Seibu and Daimaru, and other stores.

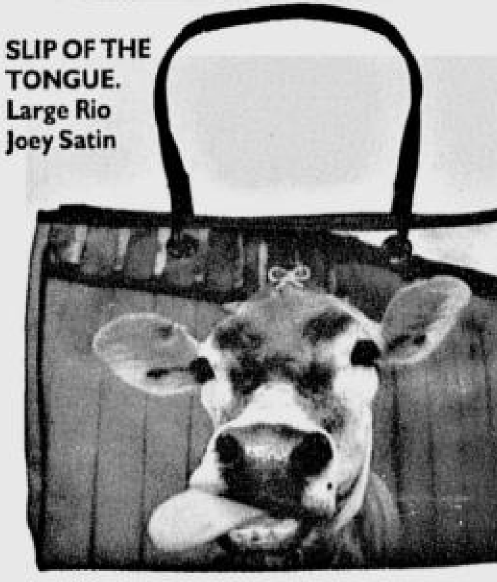
In the Philippines, Anya Hindmarch bags are available at Wish, 6750 Makati Shangri-La Shopping Arcade, Makati City.



CHOCO IN A BAG. Small Nicholl Smarties Beaded Bag

BALANCING ACT. Large Rio Fit Ladies Satin

GOOD HAIR DAY. Large Rio Beer Can Curlers Satin



SLIP OF THE TONGUE. Large Rio Joey Satin

OH DEER! Large Walford Deer On Wall Can

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HIP LIP. (left) Inquirer Just Shop's Jenni Epperson give My Lip Miracle a try; (above) Avon's marketing director Kit Ti Lian presents her company's new products.

Avon's breakthrough launch felt like a daytime pajama party—with perfectly made-up and impeccably dressed women playing with loads of cosmetics

Perfect women's nightout

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Willy Saw

I REMEMBER Avon ever since. One memory that stuck in my mind was I had a friend who comes from a family of four or five kids. It was really the mother that brought the food to their house, let's put it that way. The way she did it was by selling Avon. All these kids went to school. All these kids went to college. It was because of Avon that they could do this," said Salma Hayek, Avon's new spokesperson, in a video presentation at Avon's recent breakthrough launch.

The event, which took place at Red in Shangri-La Makati, served two purposes: to launch the company's new products and to introduce Hayek as the new face of Avon.

No, she wasn't actually there, but it was still a luncheon to remember.

Beautiful women from different publications were perfectly made up and impeccably dressed. I should have felt out of place in my Shopwise-bought shirt and orange Havaianas, but I didn't. The atmosphere was relaxed and welcoming. Strangely, it felt like a daytime pajama party.

A pajama party with really good food.

Guests enjoyed a refreshing meal of gathered greens, blue cheese and cinnamon pecans with red raspberry dressing and crusted Chilean sea bass with garlic toast chips and red bouillabaisse sauce.

As everyone savored the vairhona chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream and red berries, Kit Ti Lian, Avon's marketing director, began the launch with inspiring words.

Miracle lipstick

The people behind Avon know how important it is for women to find good lipstick. Their team worked hard at creating one that possesses all the qualities women look for—wear, moisture, color and shine. The result is Avon Color My Lip Miracle, a lipstick that boasts of day-to-night wear, matchless moisture, unbeatable color and superior shine (see related beauty colby Kinny Salas on E4). This new lipstick, which will be available this month, comes in 10 different shades.

Those of us who attended the launch enjoyed a preview. Pretty girls passed around mirrors, tubes of lipstick from competing brands and Avon Color My Lip Miracle on silver platters so we could compare. That was the tricky part. Allow me to confess that I am almost 24 years old, but I still don't know how to apply lipstick. I thought I could get away with just pretending, but with Kit right beside me, it was impossible. I took a deep breath and went for it. Within minutes, I progressed from looking like a clumsy girl playing with her mom's lipstick to looking as if a clown had planted a big messy kiss on my lips.

PERFECT/ E3

AVON employees show the proper way of using Anew Deep Crease Concentrate

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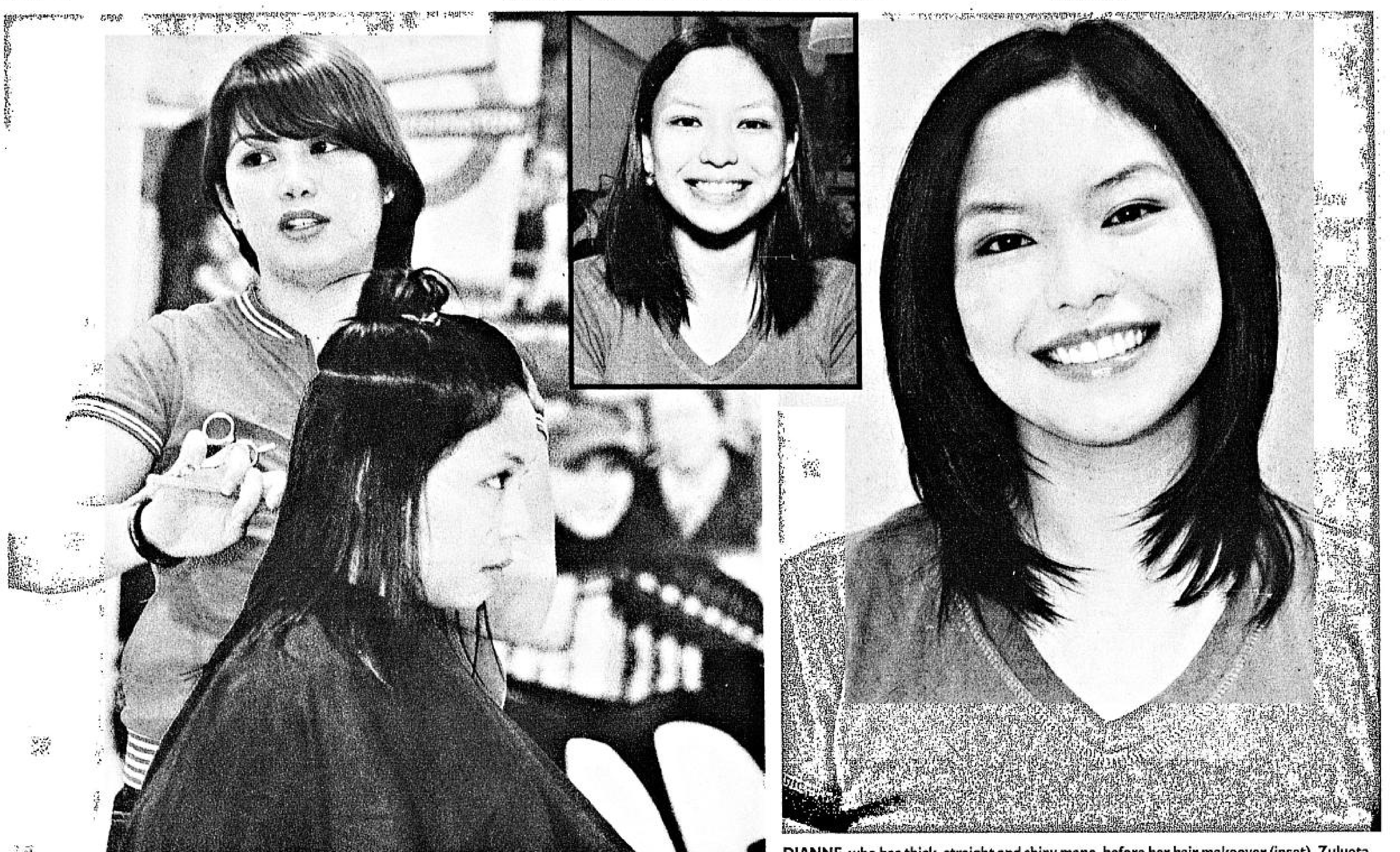


TO TAME INQUIRER editorial production assistant Dianne Villafuerte's thick hair (inset), Zulueta layers the hair underneath to keep the hair from bulging up, which happens when the hair is layered on the outside.

DIANNE, who has thick, straight and shiny mane, before her hair makeover (inset). Zulueta, who espouses clients' individuality, maintains Dianne's hair length but adds some layered fringes to frame the face. Shorter, finer layers—visible when hair is tucked behind the left ear—give the cut a distinct touch. Makeup by Rose Macapagal of Piandré Greenbelt.

Hair-apparent

Piandré unveils The Studio Salon, an intimate, four-barber-seat affair

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Rudy Esperas

IF this mom is "taking days off" these days, it's only because she can now finally afford to.

Even as Linda Francisco's three daughters have long been involved in running her successful salon chain, Piandré, it wasn't until recently when one of them had taken the reins of the chain's creative arm.

In May, fresh from her rigorous 30-week training at the Vidal Sassoon Academy and Schools in London, Francisco's youngest daughter, Drea Zulueta, assumed the creative director post of Piandré. Coincidentally, the young woman also opened her own, by-appointment-only salon in Makati called The Studio Salon.

"My sisters and I were all involved in the business," says the 25-year-old Zulueta, "but none of us were into the creative aspect of it. We were relying on our stylists."

While Zulueta grew up watching salon operations (Piandré started when she was only a year old), her foray into hairstyling was more serendipitous than planned.

As a tag-along of the Piandré creative team on a seminar abroad, she met a brilliant colorist from India, who turned out to be a BS Math graduate. "I thought, I can do this, too," Zulueta, who's a psychology graduate, remembers.

Her mom, however, was skeptical.

"Skeptical, reluctant, hesitant," Francisco laughingly recalls.

She expressed her desire to take up a course in the prestigious Vidal Sassoon in the United Kingdom—"because it's the best." But her mom thought she only wanted to go to London.

"The tuition was expensive, the cost of living [there] was expensive, so I understood her doubts," says Zulueta. "I was scared, too, because I wasn't artistic, unlike Aina," she says of her older sister, who's a painter. Their eldest, Peachy, "is our boss."

"Drea's a very bright girl," the mom says. "I'm glad I let her go. Now I can sit back."

"She's taking days off now," Zulueta chimes in.

Make no mistake, this is no dilettante at work. "I'm here for good," she assures. "It's a very lucrative career. Of course, not for me because it's a family business," she adds with a chuckle.

First in a long time

At the Vidal Sassoon School's London branch, the diminutive Zulueta was the first Filipina to train in a long time. Her intensive training required her to be in class 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., five days a week for 30 weeks. It was particularly hard for her as she had to learn from scratch. Some of her classmates, aged 16-32, were already pros.

As creative director, Zulueta will determine the style direction of Piandré, and train new staff at The Piandré Salon Academy, where The Studio Salon and the Piandré business offices are located.

The Studio Salon is an intimate, four-barber-seat affair, where Zulueta holds fort with just one assistant, Rona Salomon, who does the hair treatments. The approach is highly personalized.

The salon's walls are painted white, accented only by a display of brightly colored bottles and jars of hair products. One end is a black-and-white montage of mementos from her eight-month stay abroad—her student ID, ticket stubs for the tube, graduation snapshots with classmates and her mom, and holiday photos in Paris, Belgium and Scotland.

At the foyer, there's a two-panel Warholian portrait of Zulueta when she was 7 years old, done by sister Aina. Another portrait, this time of Francisco and her mother, also by Aina, adorns the salon.

The salon offers only haircuts and color, and hair treatments. For now, makeup is the exclusive domain of Piandré makeup artists and Aina, who sometimes does makeup.

"I want her to create her own clientele, and not take away from the client base of our longtime stylists," explains Francisco of her decision to open a separate salon for her daughter. Zulueta charges P1,000 for a haircut (for women; P800 for men), like most creative directors of high-profile salons.

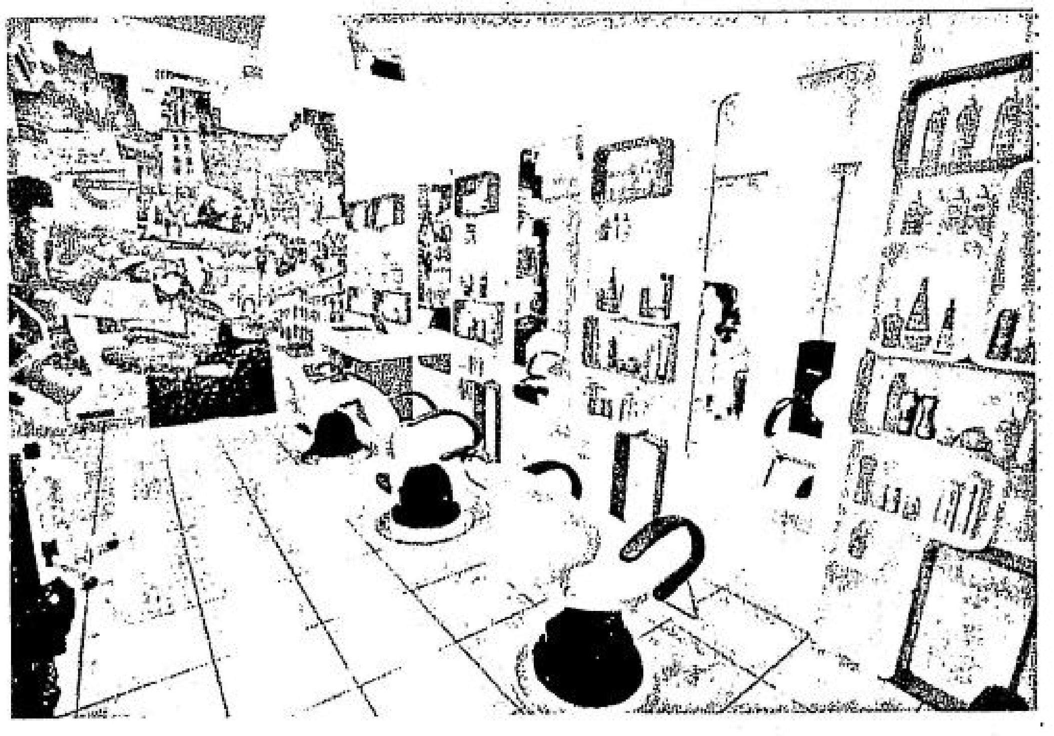
Zulueta jokes her clients at the moment are mostly her mom's friends. There are some who come in with photos of celebrities whose hairstyles they want copied. "What I do is I cover the face [of the celebrity] to make them realize that it may not work for them… I'm all for individuality."

"I think what's good about her is that she's not afraid to snip off [a large chunk of hair] if she has to," says Francisco. "You really look new when you leave the salon."

Now that's not just the mom, but also the successful salon owner talking.

The Studio Salon by Piandré is at G/F CSJ Building, 105 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Open Mondays to Thursdays 5 p.m. onward and Fridays to Saturdays 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 0921-7000673 or 8130240 local 101 for an appointment.

THE PIANDRÉ Salon Academy, where new creative staff of the salon chain are trained



THE INTERIORS of The Studio Salon. The wall on the far end is a montage of the principal stylist's photos taken during her training overseas.

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Facial cleansing just got better

NEW
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POND'S recently launched The Pond's Face Factor 2: Whitening Facial Spa at Palm Grove in Rockwell Club to educate women on the basics of skin care.

A survey conducted by the Pond's Institute, the company's research and development arm, showed that a big percentage of Filipino women still use hard whitening soap both on their face and body.

"This concept is wrong," said Francis Flores, senior brand manager of Pond's. "The face should be treated differently. It has special needs that are different from the rest of the body. These needs may not be addressed by ordinary papaya or whitening hard soaps that are known to strip the outer layer of the skin."

To answer this need, Pond's is introducing the newest addition to the Pond's White Beauty Product Line, the Skin Whitening Vitamin Facial Wash. It's a product designed to improve skin clarity, tone and texture—without hazardous substances that may damage the skin.

Beauty experts and Pond's users Abbygale Arenas and Patty Betita clarified that Pond's new product doesn't promise a Snow-white complexion as most whitening products do, up to the point of damaging the skin. But it works effectively without the hassle of skin peeling or bleaching.

Besides Vita-Cleansers that gently wash off dirt without stripping the natural moisture of the skin, the facial wash also has Vitamin B3 that whitens the skin from within. It has active whitening ingredients that permeate deeply into the keratin layer of the skin to control melanin production and inhibit the formation of blotches and freckles caused by excessive sun exposure.

There's also Vitamin E to nourish and moisturize the skin, and double sunshields to protect the skin from the harmful effects of the sun.

Dermatologists also recommend the use of any of the Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin leave-on products, like the Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin Cream, the Vitamin Fluid and the Vitamin Pearl Cream for better results.

The Pond's Face Factor 2 activity will visit leading malls and schools nationwide. Guest dermatologists will be available for free one-on-one skin analysis and consultations for those who have skin problems. Skin experts will also provide lectures on the proper way to lighten the skin.

Arenas and Betita will conduct free lectures at the Pond's booths in selected malls. The mall tour features the Whitening Facial Spa Zone, where booth visitors can avail of a deep-cleansing and relaxing facial using the Pond's Cold Cream and the new Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin Facial Wash.

INQUIRER's Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, former beauty queen Patty Betita, Inquirer's Gem Padilla, Pond's senior brand manager Francis Flores, Pond's assistant brand manager Dorothy Dee, Miss Philippines 2004 winners and beauty expert Abbygale Arenas launch The Pond's Face Factor 2: Whitening Facial Spa

PREVIEW'S Pauline Suaco-Juan and Cosmo's Myrza Sison get their first whiff of "Today".

Perfect women's nightout

From page E1

I realized that I am dangerous when armed with a tube of lipstick.

Kit, who had been watching my struggle, couldn't take it anymore.

"Do you want me to help you?" she asked. I nodded and sighed in relief as I relinquished my weapon to her. I took comfort in her deft and confident strokes. Soon, I was smiling my bright red smile as I settled back to wait for the rest of the launch.

Perfect fragrance

Product no. 2 was more in my league. After all, who has trouble spraying perfume?

"Today" is the first of Avon's trilogy of scents. Avon's trilogy of scents is a journey. It is love, beauty and life in a beautiful bottle.

Host Daphne Oseña, who said she's not big on floral fragrances, found "Today" a pleasant surprise. "I really like this scent," she said to all the women.

I couldn't agree more. It's light, sweet and romantic—the perfect fragrance for a date.

"Today" will be available in November, "Tomorrow," scent No. 2, will be launched in 2005 and "Always," scent No. 3, will hit the market after that.

Women who want to get rid of their wrinkles, crow's feet, laugh lines and frown lines but are terrified of needles and crazy bills will love Avon's third breakthrough product. Anew Deep Crease Concentrate With Bo-Hylurox promises to make one's face look more youthful, without pain and without taking away one's capabilities to show their emotions. Anew Deep Crease Concentrate is to be applied on target areas twice a day for good results. This product will also be available in November.

Goodie bags were later given out, along with silver bracelets identical to the Tiffany creation Reese Witherspoon wore in "Legally Blonde."

On the surface, the event was about cosmetics and beauty, but with the presentation of survey findings and stressing the importance of inner magnificence, it went beyond superficiality—just like Avon does.

Salma Hayek said, "I did a lot of research on the company. And I really fell in love with this company and feel very, very honored to be a part of it. When they approached me, I saw that it was exactly what I was looking for. I could do a campaign of beauty that is not about how glamorous you are. It's about empowering women."

It was more than just a launch. Those few hours were a celebration of femininity and womanhood.

Now if I could only learn to walk in those high heels.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

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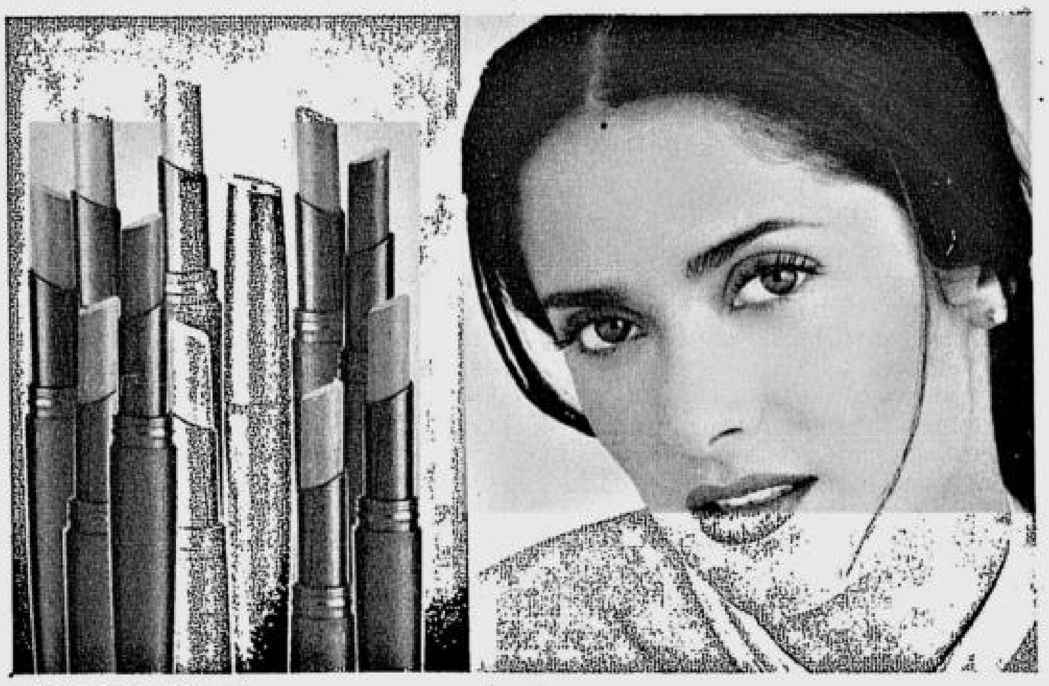

AVON My Lip Miracle

Beauty breakthroughs pamper lips, check age lines

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

AROUND this time every year, Avon comes out with a big bash to introduce three breakthrough products. I have had perfect attendance in the last three years because Avon always has my favorite item in a better formula than the last—lipstick, my true passion in life! This year, as expected, it has my favorite lipstick in 10 existing shades.

This particular formula is called My Lip Miracle. This is by far my favorite Avon lipstick formula. It has the strong pigment of matte lipstick. It lasts even longer—a good eight hours without drying my perpetually chapped lips. Its moisture-rich texture plumps up lips and gives them a sexy shine that does not look greasy or cheap.

The colors are very wearable; in fact, six out of the 10 shades suit me, and I am keeping them. They are price-competitive and, dare I say, even better than a lot of prestigious brands that cost double.

Here are the shade names and color descriptions to help you decide which will suit you: Tiptop taupe (the perfect universal nude), Pinkfabulous (beige pink), IncREDible (dramatic true red without pink, orange, brown or blue tones), Magnifispice (rich rust), Super red (maroon velvet), Brown unbound (Cinnamon Rose), Rosiest (peachy brown), Mauviest (salmon pink), Splenderose (coral) and Berrylicious (fuschia red).

The great news: the line is available this month!

The next two products won't emerge till November 2004, so I regret you will have to wait. Hey, you have 10 great lipstick shades to enjoy in the meantime, so the wait won't be that agonizing.

The second item presented this year was the new Avon fragrance, Today Tomorrow Always, a mix of green cactus, freesia, white pepper, butterfly blossom and cedarwood. The freesia is the most dominant note, and the scent smells heavenly. Combined with the rest of the scents, the new.fragrance gives off a slight apricot scent. The perfect way to describe it would be a sweet floral which can be used any time of day, all year round.

I can even imagine this on a high-school girl as her transition fragrance from baby cologne, as well as on a woman in her 40s "doing lunch" with her friends. It may be a light and fresh scent, but it stays on.

Anti-aging miracle

The grand finale product is always a miracle anti-aging concoction from the Anew line. It's understandable that this will be launched November yet, because that is when the weather gets colder and facial lines tend to be more pronounced.

The Anew Deep Crease Concentrate with Bio Hylurox admittedly is the biggest breakthrough of the bunch. Avon's researchers have truly outdone themselves this time. The formula relaxes and fills out expression lines (laugh lines, crow's feet, forehead furrows and the like).

I tried the formula on my nanny and the results were almost instant. She definitely looked younger. Of course, the effect was temporary, but the formula promises great improvement with regular use. This will be a hit for consumers who are afraid of needles, blood and surgery, but want to eliminate facial lines.

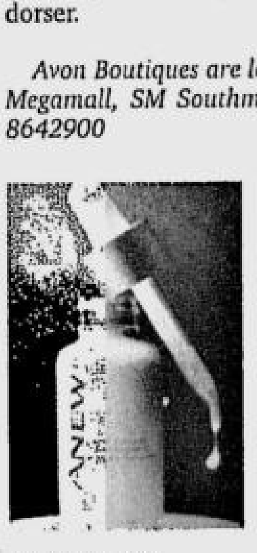
The new formula must be applied daily, smoothing up and out until totally absorbed. Only one drop per area is needed. Target areas are the forehead, between the eyebrows, under the eyes, crow's feet and around the mouth and nose.

Prediction: expect a drop in Botox and fillers sales. Certain doctors recommend Botox only on the upper third of the face, but not on the areas around the mouth and cheeks because one would look devoid of expression.

This serum promises the same results without the downside of paralysis, so it can be applied anywhere on the face without the consumer looking like a shocked deer caught in the headlights.

But perhaps the biggest beauty breakthrough this year is that my idol, the gorgeous and sexy Salma Hayek, is the new Avon endorser.

Avon Boutiques are located at Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and Ali, Mall. Call 8642900


DEEP Crease Concentrate with Bo Hylorux

AVON Today Tomorrow Always fragrance

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- **Kerwin Funtanilla**
  A winning culinary competitor, his skills were honed in such places as Cravings and Mandarin Oriental.
- **Catherine Lim**
  A freelance caterer and baker, she manages a family-run catering service and is finishing her Master's Degree in Food Service Administration in UP.
- **Marilen Ordoñez**
  A former interior decorator, she made the shift to food technology and is now one of the fast rising culinary consultants and caterers in Manila.
- **Mia Yan**
  A veteran of several culinary institutions, she has conceptualized and prepared creative food ideas for every occasion.
- **Michael Joseph Vidad**
  A master at mixing Eastern with Western cuisine, his culinary creations have been displayed from Makati to Virginia.

BLACK is back—for swingin' dudes /F2

LIFESTYLE

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The rise of the cheating lifestyle

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

SHE may not know it, but some weekends in the Alabang mall, Sen. **Pia Cayetano** cuts a refreshing sight. She malls without a bodyguard or an aide to fuss around her. Such unobtrusiveness in this day of celebrityhood is rare.

In contrast, in a nearby country club is another new senator whose presence in the gym is heralded by a coterie of bodyguards hovering around as the solon sculpts his biceps and pecs.

We have nothing against bodyguards; they're there for a reason—to protect our elected officials from harm or sudden death, if not karmic retribution. But to us, bodyguards and the way they are flaunted in this day and age symbolize the pomposity of power that has come to mark the times. They are so much the lifestyle of the moment. And that lifestyle represents just how much our values as a people have warped.

The country is heading toward a fiscal crisis, and all that government men are doing is issuing press releases to avert it. You know it'll take more than economists to fix things. And what needs fixing isn't only the economy or the country's institutions that we've lost to corruption, but more so, the values system we're passing on to the next generation.

And what is this damaged values system or warped lifestyle?

To me, it's everything that's so nouveau. And nouveau is tacky. And tacky is:

- "Wearing" your bodyguards like you do your fashion accessories. You brandish them like the season's embellishments. And since we're talking trappings of newfound power and wealth here, we might as well include the blaring car sirens and security convoy that escort the bigwigs through traffic.

The irony is, traffic in the metropolis is so bad that such a retinue is rendered useless. Yet its use has become *de riguer*. If only government officials and politicians allowed themselves to experience the city traffic as much as all of us do—and there's no reason they shouldn't (our appointments are no less important than theirs)—perhaps they'd genuinely realize the mess the urban infrastructure is in. They should consider it one of their life-altering lessons.

- Brand before integrity, and we mean all kinds of brands, from fashions to jewelry. Given what they see or live with, our kids must be growing up with the mindset that it doesn't matter how you make your pile, just make it so you can snap up all the brands in the mall.

Time was, you thought you needed good education to ensure good living. Today, kids must be thinking, to be rich, you can skip school and go into politics, via show biz. Then the public domain becomes one's private wealth. Clean, honest living is no longer lifestyle-friendly; only a corrupt political career is.

- Hype it, don't work at it. Press releases have supplanted hard work. Our kids may grow up in a society that hardly knows work ethic. It's bad enough that technology and media have conditioned their generation to be so used to instant gratification, it will be a lot worse if they grow up

THE RISE/ F3

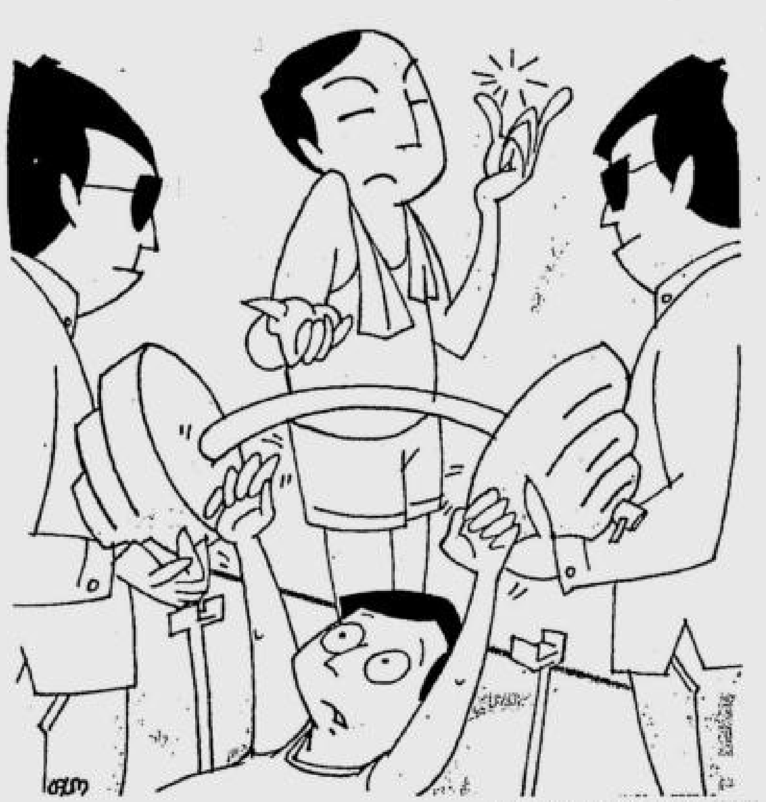

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

> The way bodyguards and wealth are flaunted shows the pomposity of power that has come to mark the times

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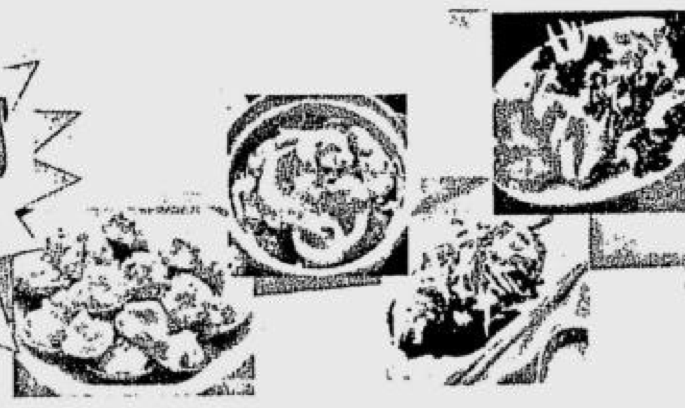

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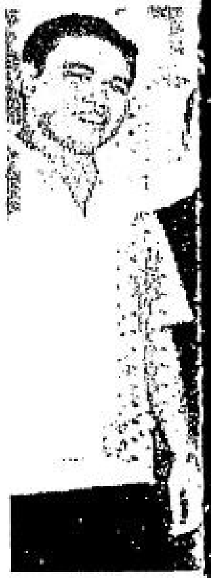
LOUIE Ysmael and Asian Spirit's Noel Onate

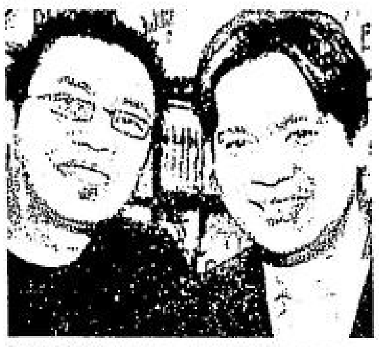
HEY, we're in black. DJ Montano and Henry Lim

MAGAZINE divas. Liza Ilarde Cuenca and Pierra Calasanz

THEY approve of the men. Daphne Mitra and Rosario Herrera


ESSENSES' nine
Javier and Rob D

ESSENSES' Toni Abad with Pineapples' Anton Barretto


TALENT manager Joji Dingcong and his superstar ward, Martin Nievera

BEAUTIFUL yo
Brilliant young
Puyat and wife

Great black day for men of the moment

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

BLACK is back," and it was a sea of people in fashionable black outfits who breezed in at 9:30 p.m., as stipulated, during the Black Seven Party. Greenbelt 2's posh Nuvo Bar was elbow-to-elbow literally with Cosmo Manille's cool, hip partying crowd, who apparently set aside the usual "Filipino time" in deference to Johnnie Walker that served free drinks till midnight.

Last November, Johnnie Walker launched the Black Seven via seven unforgettable theme happenings in the hottest nightspots in the city. And this year, Black Seven has come four months early!

Nuvo's Outdoor tent was draped completely in black fishnet curtain. There was a special lounge setup complete with black pillows. There were black cocktail tables and a special Black Seven Video showing footage from last year's Black Seven Party series, which honored Manille's men of the moment, "individuals who inspire male progress in their chosen fields."

The fun party became a reunion of sorts for last year's honorees, who mixed with hot VIPs, gorgeous models and celebrities. The eye-catchers were not the guests really, but the especially created water-filled cylinders that lay on every table, each with a single black fish swimming around a miniature bottle of Black Label, would you believe? And rising from each "fishbowl" were bamboo rods with little cards that said, "Don't drink like a fish: Johnnie Walker promotes responsible drinking."

Already, a second Black Seven Party of the year will happen at V Bar, where Black Knights will honor: **Beaver Lopez** of Teak, **Jay Server** of Capones, **Albert Besa** of Il Ponticello, **Erik Cua** of Temple, **Mark Villar** of Yaku, and naturellement, V's only true king of the nightlife, **Louie Ysmael**, natch!

There were many good-looking and average men all over the place, and I could easily tell they were bachelors on the prowl. At one table, I noticed this bunch of sad-looking married individuals, who if I recall, were once happy, rich bachelors. Pity, *di bala*?

THE GANG. Martin Valdes, Tina Tinio, Celine Lopez and Patrick Reyno

Essence of masculinity

It was raining men, *palanggas*, when Essenses of Rustan's honored 10 of the most worthy men, movers and shakers in their fields, in this year's "Men of the Moment."

Essenses also highlighted products that benefit men. After all, skincare, pampering and fragrance are what the men of this century have adopted as a lifestyle.

Okay gals, here are the "men of the moment": **Brent Javier**, who has quickly moved from being one of the drooled-over cosmopolitan bachelors to one of the most in-demand poster boys; **Rob Duat**, who not only scores on the Cosmopolitan list of hunks, but on the hard court

as well; young,
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is businessman
columnist at n
singing sensati
who has a doub
nomics and Phi
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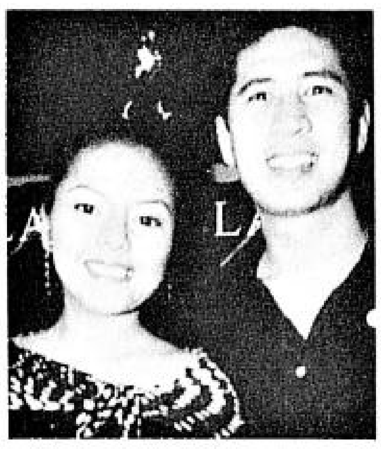
BLACK is beautiful. Emma Policarpio and her man, Paolo Trillo

FOR FRIENDSHIP'S sake. Ronald Pasyon and gorgeous Angel Aquino

STEVE Mills, Manolet Dario and Tin Magsaysay

BL
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HOT dudes. Dale Villar, GP Reyes, William Theo

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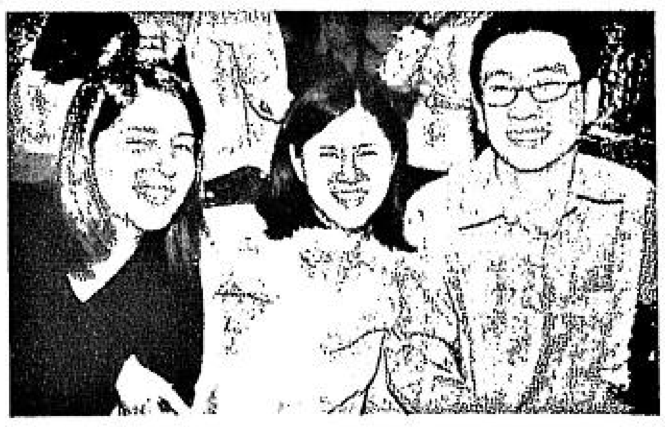
chosen men—Mark Villar, Gil Coscolluela, Ipe Cruz, Martin Nievera, Luke Jickain, Dave Puyat, Jay-R, Brent
ıat



ANGELET Calero of Pineapple, Elly Dee of W Restaurant and Edward Lim

SENATE president's wife Mila Drilon, Manny Gonzales and Tereret Tambunting Liboro

THEY dig Korean yummies. Peachy Zulueta, Eds Genuino, Tim Go, Laura Lim, Jeanne and Raul Romulo

ıng movers.
ıwyer Dave
Berna Romulo

LIESBETH Rutten

MARIKO Jacinto looks on as Pepper Teehankee tells *moi* what to purchase.

old and beauti-
; **Ipe Cruz**, who
by day and a
ght; **Jay-R**, the
n; **Mark Villar**,
e-degree in Eco-
osophy from the
nnsylvania, and
of Home Plus;
Dave
g partner of the
Jacinto and San-
il **Coscolluela**,
o translate his
into livable
finally, singer,

performer and host extraordinaire **Martin Nievera**.

The 10th man of the moment, Sen. **Mar Roxas**, sadly was not able to make it to the awarding.

Naturellement, the men's products were not just for men. Gendarme, for example, is known for men's fragrances that **Sharon Stone** and **Debra Messing** adore wearing.

Shaving will never be the same after men experience the King of Shaves' shave.

Other men's care lines on parade included the very popular Clinique for Men, Dermalogica, Bronnely, Clarins for Men, Phytoaxil and L'Occitane.

Top fragrances were featured, *palanggas*.

But definitely the newest star in the galaxy was Clean. The cool, refreshing eau de toilette combines juicy notes of Italian bergamot and Provençal lemon with lavender, jasmine, white rose, muguet and musk. Since splashing it on, I haven't stopped receiving compliments about it. Check it out at Essenses in all Rustan's Department Stores. It's a sure winner, *palanggas*.

The inimitable **Ces Drilon** hosted the show. From Essenses were the ultra-chic triumvirate of **Boogie Trinidad**, **Rhoda Campos** and **Toni Abad**.

SMILE gals. Vanessa Dulay, lady of the hour Laura Lim and vivacious Chichi Silverio

MILA Drilon, Greenhills Shopping Center chief operating officer Rex Drilon, Fr. Heart and Philippine-Korean Economic Society and SGV chair Dave Balangue

Korean feast

The popular Korean restaurant Sorabol unveiled its newest branch at the Greenhills Shopping Center.

Sorabol's young owner, the pretty **Laura Lim**, welcomed her invitees to the Korean gastronomic experience, dahlings.

Sorabol, I was told, was named after the capital of the Korean Shilla Dynasty. It first opened in 1979 at the San Francisco Bay Area. "Soon, it was reaping numerous awards, getting critical acclaim and winning a large and loyal following."

Hey, *palanggas*, check out Sorabol's Korean barbecue and give yourself a new palate thrill with some favorites, such as the classic savory Korean barbecue Chicken, squid marinated in Sorabol special sauce, and the crisp and mildly spicy lemon chicken.

Toasting the new branch were **Mila Drilon**, the wife of the Senate president; **Dave Balangue**, president of the Philippine-Korean Economic Council and chair of SGV; **Rex Drilon**, president of Ortigas and Company ; vivacious **Tereret Tambunting Liboro**; Pineapple Store's **Eds Genuino** and **Angelet Calero**; fashion designer **Richi Ortega**; San Juan councilor and TV host **Bobby Yan**; **Manny Gonzalez**; **Vicky** and **Roberto Barrera**; and **Jay** and **Carmen Ong**. Also there were socialites **Citang Zosa** and **Mel Garcia**, who really dig Korean food, *palanggas*.

The rise . . .

From page F1

being so used to cutting corners, and not knowing the value of hard work. If we kept at it, the future generation would hardly know the difference between hype and hard work.

- Marketing takes the place of knowledge. It shouldn't be, but that's how things are turning out. It's not what you know, it's how you're packaged.

Actually the above aren't only tacky, they can be downright depressing the more one realizes that the lifestyle and values system of our kids' generation will be distorted even before they can be developed. Unfortunately, it'll take more than a lifestyle check or a witch-hunt in our government agencies to avert this.

Truth is, we're being reduced into a "cheating lifestyle."

Here and there

At the height of the typhoon last week, we stepped into El Circulo to keep our dinner date with friends but instead, walked into the birthday dinner of **Liaa Cojuangco Bautista**. Her family and friends, including **Tina Ocampo** and El Circulo's **Malu Gamboa**, were around to celebrate Liaa's milestone—a woman truly abloom at 40. Our dates were **Cesar Gaupo**, **Lulu Tan Gan**, **Tonichi Nocom** and **Mike de la Rosa**.

Cesar was here briefly taking a break from Shanghai Tang in Hong Kong. Lulu had just arrived from London where, aside from visiting her daughter, she took up a short course on fabric manipulation at College of St. Martin's. Cesar, Lulu, Tonichi and Mike will join the Metro Wear end of this year, along with other designers.

Louis Vuitton manager in Manila **Gigi Mabanta** is moving on to another fashion retail.

After a successful weddings show, **Patis Tesoro** is channeling her energy into another exciting venture—her weekend house in Laguna will be a dining place featuring the cuisine of her son-in-law, chef **Paul Poblador**.

Patis' daughter, Nina, and Nina's husband, **Paul**, are behind Salud's in Baguio, which is one of the best restos in the country. Now Paul's cuisine will be more accessible when they open Cusina Salud in Patis' place in Laguna. This goes with the trend of out-of-the-city weekend dining, after Sonya's Garden and Antonio's in Tagaytay.

E-mail tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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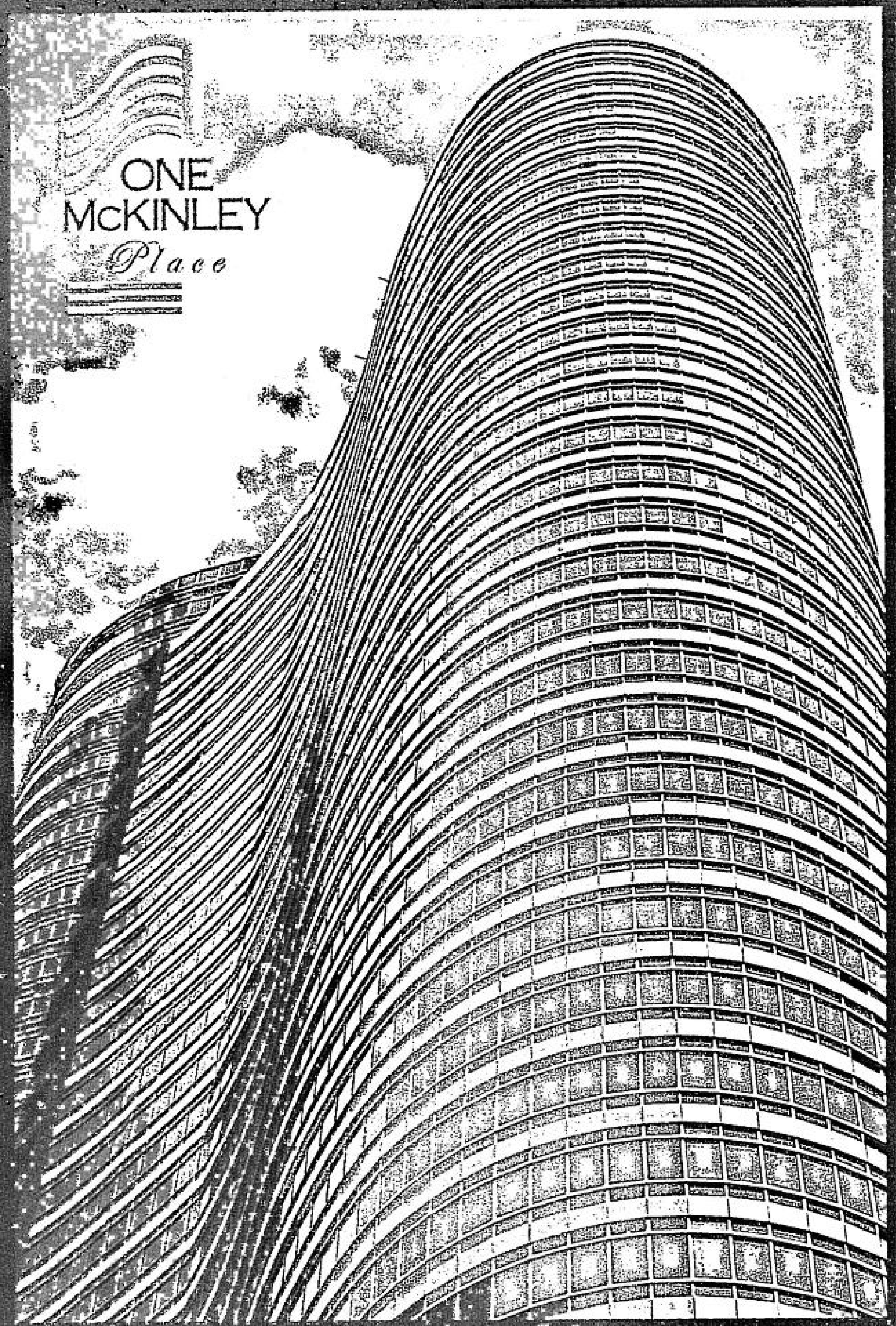
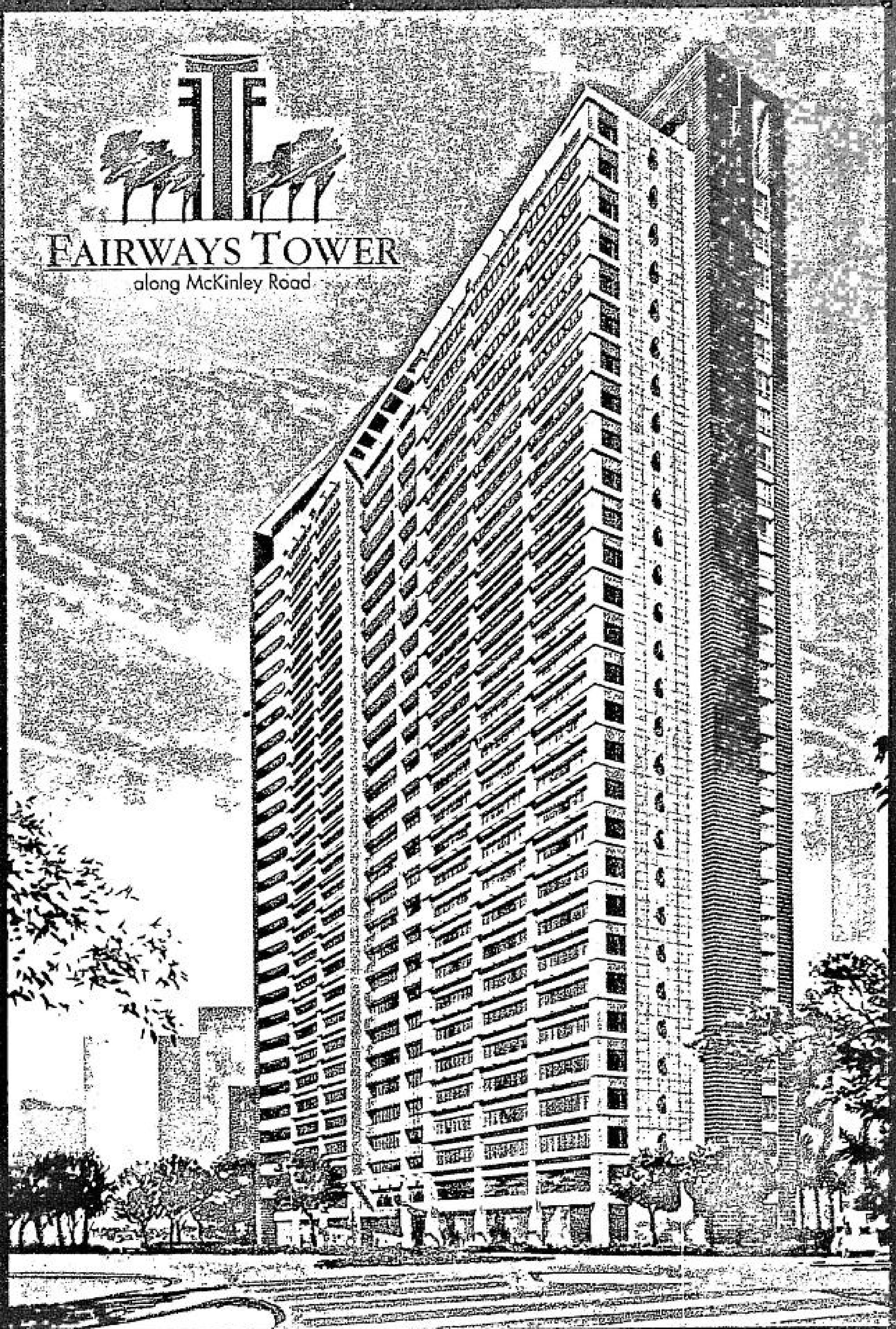
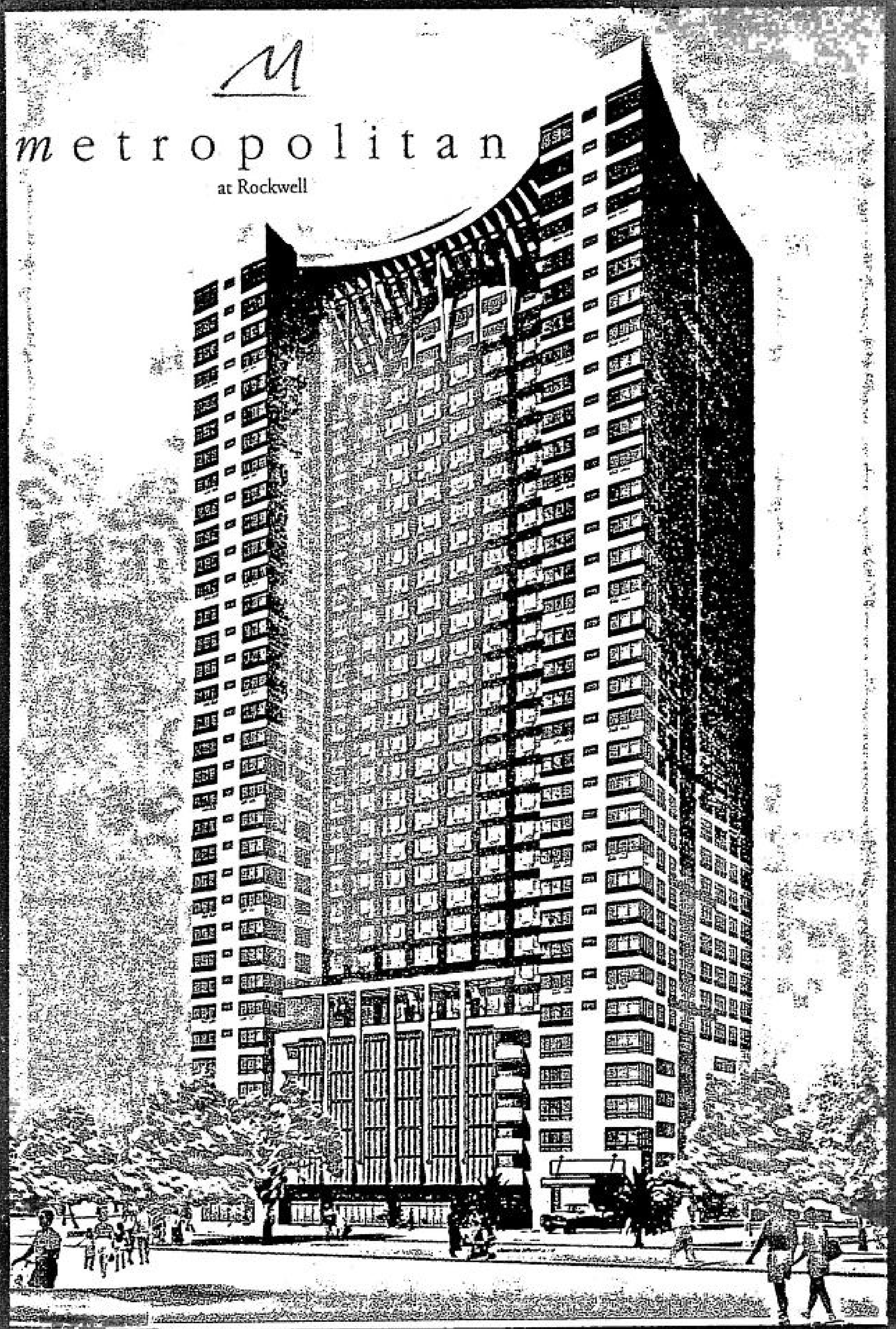

ONE
McKINLEY
Place


FAIRWAYS TOWER
along McKinley Road


metropolitan
at Rockwell

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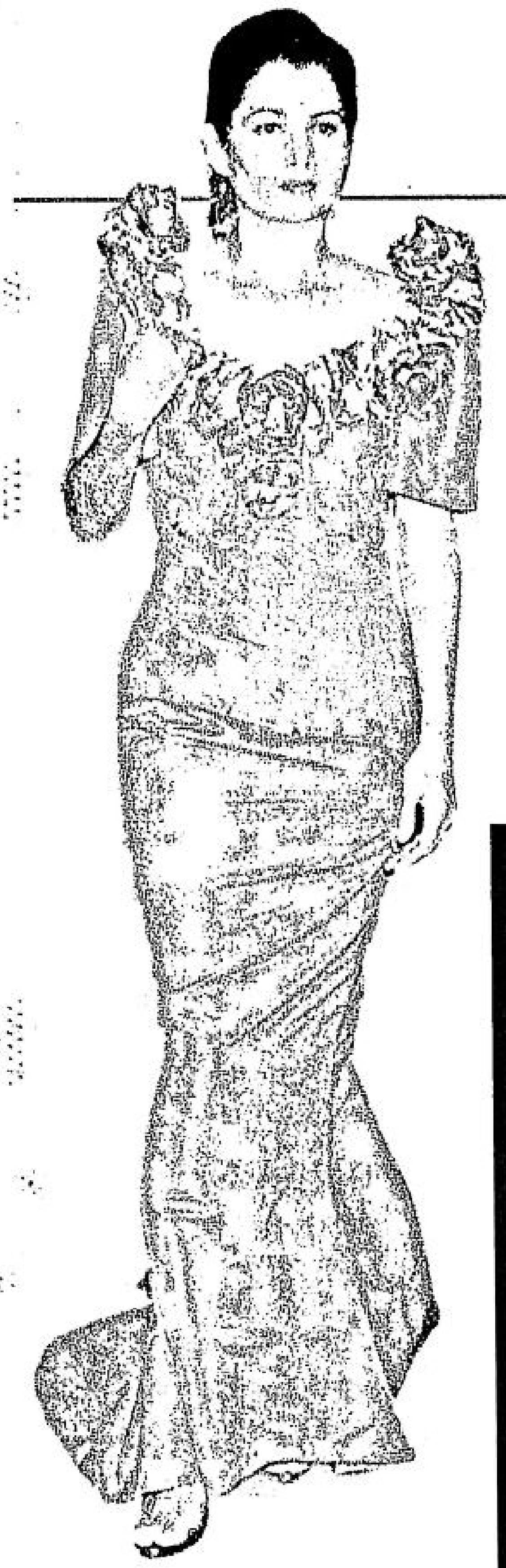
Fashion as Pinoy art form

Pitoy Moreno's designs show that the best haute couture can rise to the level of art

PITOY MORENO
Moreno

PITOY Moreno with good friend and CCP patroness Imelda Cojuangco



FLORAL terno

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Betoy Johnson

IF THE Cultural Center of the Philippines has its way, there will be a National Artist for Fashion Design. And a strong contender for that will be "Asia's Fashion Czar," Jose "Pitoy" Moreno.

Under its president Nes Jardin, CCP is working to elevate fashion to the same level as dance, theater, music and other art forms. And Jardin has made his intention known by helping stage "Ginintuang Moreno," a tribute to the diminutive artist who marks his 50 years as a fashion designer next month.

The tribute, which will be written and directed by Floy Quintos, will be staged on Oct. 26 and 27 at the CCP Main Theater (tel. 8323681), and will have as its beneficiaries the CCP Arts for the People Program, Gawad Kalinga Foundation and Laura Vicuña Foundation.

"That's as far as the stage as a performance venue is concerned," said Jardin at the press conference to preview Moreno's designs. "It's an attempt to veer from the Western concept of limiting recognition to the seven arts. Any subjective and personal expression of the artist can be an art form."

Jardin, a former dancer, stressed the importance of recognizing other art forms that contribute to the country's cultural, social and economic development. Fashion, of course, is one of the country's most viable and most popular art forms, next only perhaps to cinema and broadcasting.

Moreno, arguably the country's most popular Filipino designer abroad, deserves recognition not only because of his dedication to his craft, but also for his efforts to put the country on the fashion map. To date, Moreno has done shows in Paris, London, Madrid, Rome, Vienna, Moscow, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Tokyo, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, among others.

Deserving

"The idea of giving a tribute to Pitoy came after similar tributes were given to Valera and Joe Salazar," added Jardin. "People I've consulted said Pitoy also deserves such an honor for his efforts to bring honor to the country. He deserves it in the same way other senior designers deserve it. Hopefully, this tribute will just be the first."

The tribute will show a 120-piece collection consisting mostly of vintage pieces that he updated or fused with new elements to give them a more current appeal. Others may dismiss the clothes as Moreno's "*baul*" (chest) collection, but the designer himself said this was his way of appealing to clients to value their clothes like they value other works of art.

"A lot of designers have also done beautiful clothes," said Moreno. "It would be a pity if their owners didn't make an effort to

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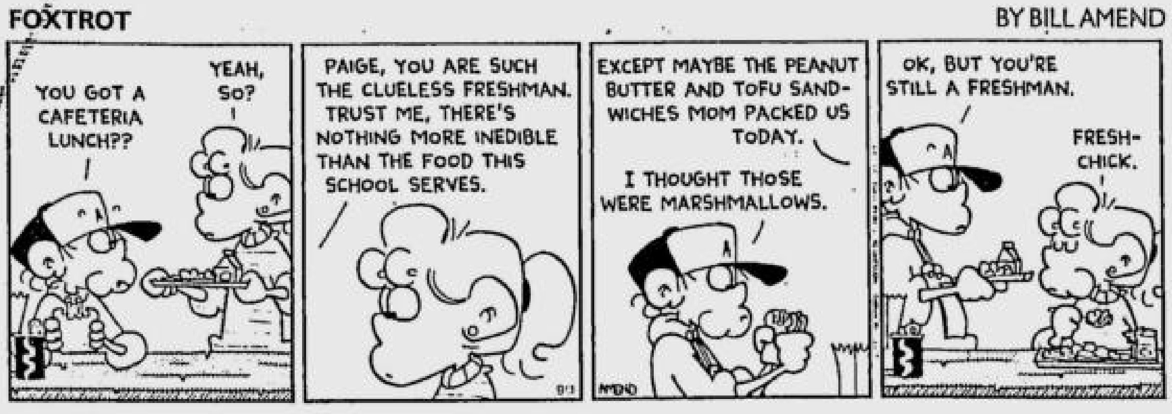
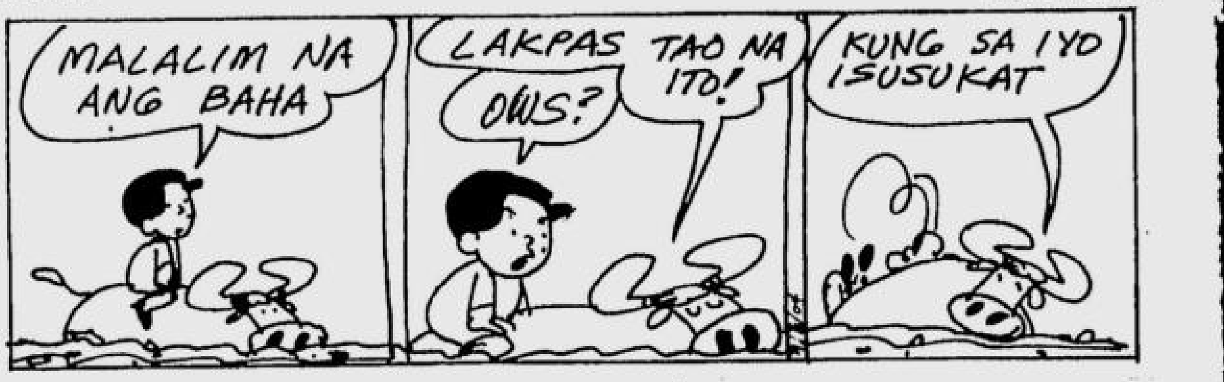
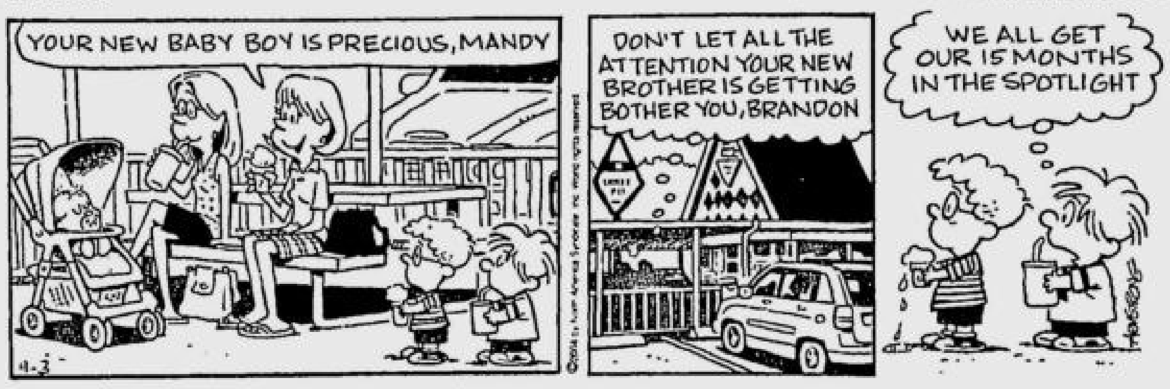
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


YOU GOT A CAFETERIA LUNCH??
YEAH, SO?
PAIGE, YOU ARE SUCH THE CLUELESS FRESHMAN. TRUST ME, THERE'S NOTHING MORE INEDIBLE THAN THE FOOD THIS SCHOOL SERVES.
EXCEPT MAYBE THE PEANUT BUTTER AND TOFU SANDWICHES MOM PACKED US TODAY.
I THOUGHT THOSE WERE MARSHMALLOWS.
OK, BUT YOU'RE STILL A FRESHMAN.
FRESH-CHICK.

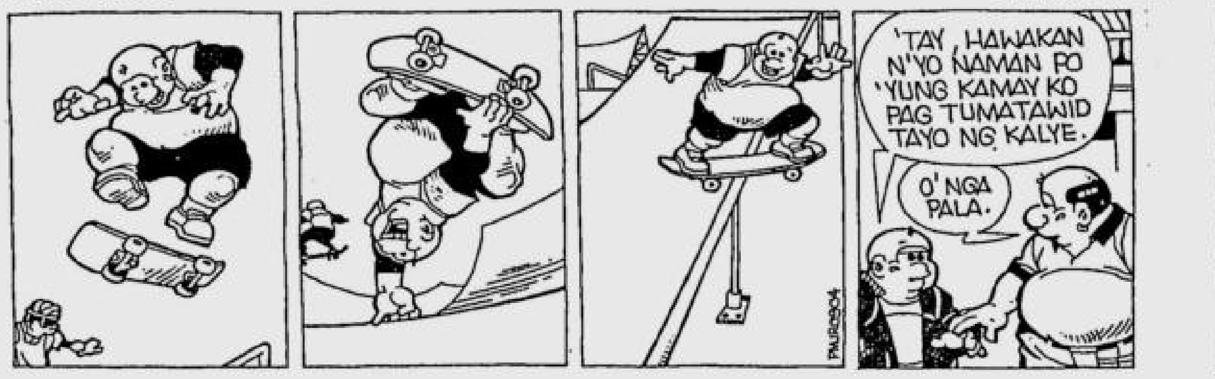
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MALALIM NA ANG BAHA
LAKPAS TAO NA ITO!
OWS?
KUNG SA IYO ISUSUKAT

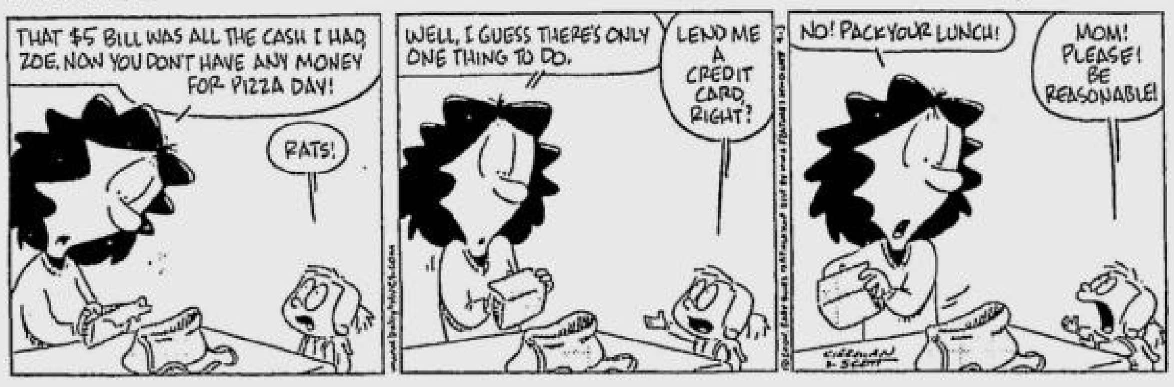
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YOUR NEW BABY BOY IS PRECIOUS, MANDY
DON'T LET ALL THE ATTENTION YOUR NEW BROTHER IS GETTING BOTHER YOU, BRANDON
WE ALL GET OUR 15 MONTHS IN THE SPOTLIGHT
9-3

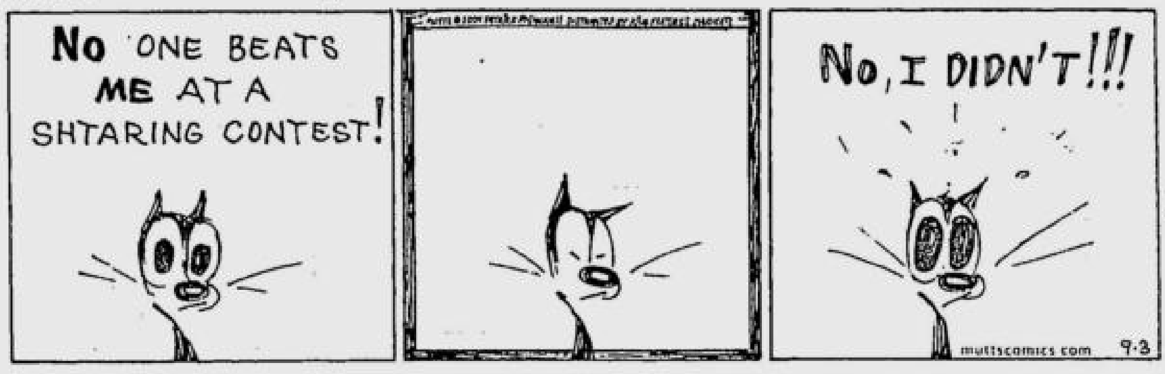
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


'TAY, HAWAKAN N'YO NAMAN PO 'YUNG KAMAY KO PAG TUMATAWID TAYO NG KALYE.
O' NGA PALA.

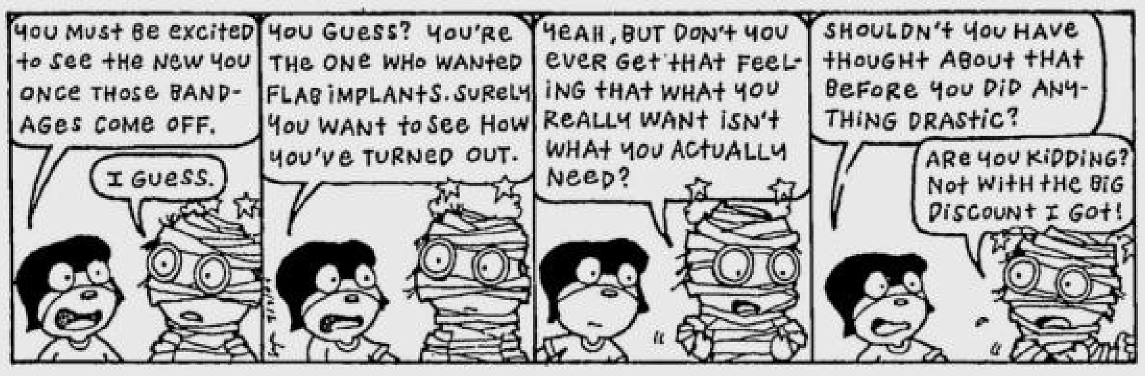
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT $5 BILL WAS ALL THE CASH I HAD, ZOE. NOW YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY FOR PIZZA DAY!
RATS!
WELL, I GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO.
LEND ME A CREDIT CARD, RIGHT?
NO! PACK YOUR LUNCH!
MOM! PLEASE! BE REASONABLE!

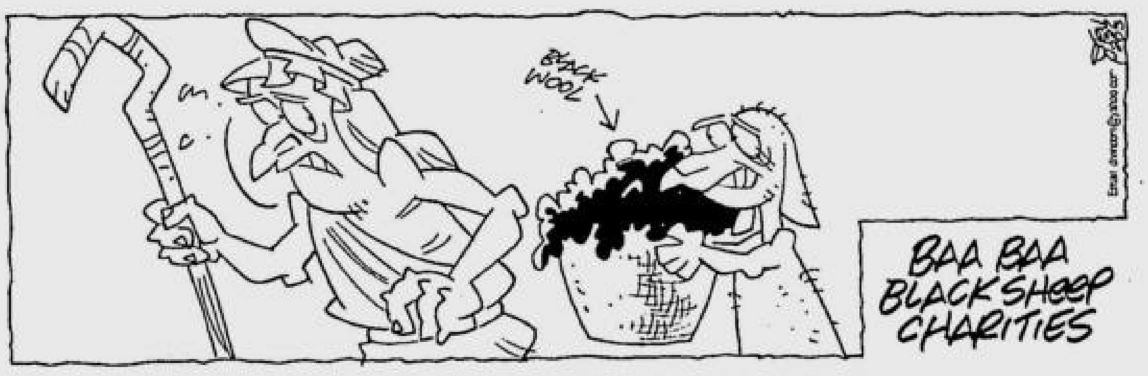
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


NO ONE BEATS ME AT A SHTARING CONTEST!
No, I DIDN'T!!!
mutts comics.com 9-3

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You must be excited to see the new you once those bandages come off.
I guess.
You guess? You're the one who wanted flab implants. Surely you want to see how you've turned out.
Yeah, but don't you ever get that feeling that what you really want isn't what you actually need?
Shouldn't you have thought about that before you did anything drastic?
Are you kidding? Not with the big discount I got!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BLACK WOOL
BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP CHARITIES

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very light on your feet. You do many things very well. Not only are you adept at technical, professional skills, you're also very polished socially speaking. On top of this, you're accommodating and patient. However, you are often misunderstood. (But it doesn't bother you.) Wrap up important cycles this year. Time to move on.

Birthdate of: Charles Sheen, actor; Valerie Perrine, actress; Eileen Brennan, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a productive day at work because your financial judgment is good today. Whether you're earning cash or spending it, you're on the ball.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The Moon is in your sign today, giving you an advantage over everybody else. Use this as best you can! When the universe gives you a gift, always accept.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You'll be glad if you somehow manage to get a few moments of solitude today—just for yourself. You need some quiet time to pull your thoughts together.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A conversation with a female friend could turn out to be quite helpful to you. Be open to a sympathetic ear or advice from unlikely sources. Someone wants to help you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): No matter what you do today, you will likely call attention to yourself. Because of this, be aware of your dress, your language and how you treat people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Try to do something different and out of the ordinary today. Shake up your routine a little. If you want a bit of adventure, you're going to have to go beyond your playpen!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Attend to red-tape matters connected with estates, inheritances, wills, insurance details, bills, debt, credit, taxes and shared property. It's all rather boring, but it's necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The Moon is opposite your sign today, which means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Be diplomatic and accommodating. What's to lose?

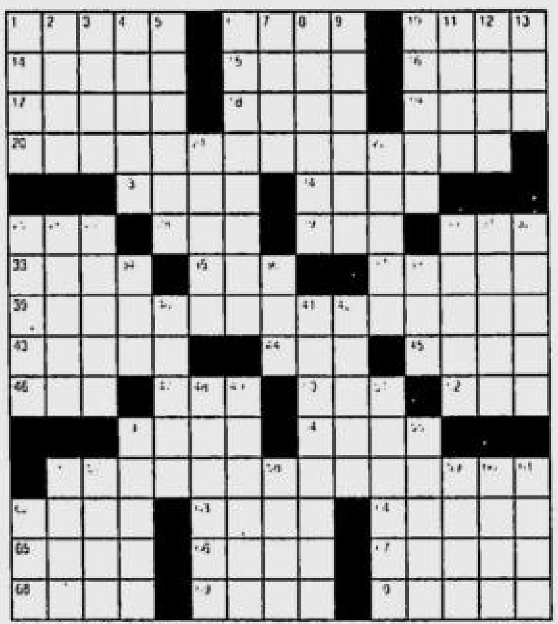
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're ambitious now, because you want to succeed at something particular. Today is a good day to make strides in this area. Tidy up your scene.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Flirtations, fun and pleasure come first today. It doesn't mean you can't work or get anything done; it just means your mind is elsewhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with a family member, probably a female (mother?), are significant today. You might learn how to better manage your resources. Someone wants to give you something useful or valuable.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your communication skills are strong today. Trust your intuition. If there's something you want to tell someone, do it. It will be the right move.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
9/3/04

ACROSS
1 Old hag
6 Actor Omar
10 9th month
14 Give the game away
15 Stain on Santa's coat
16 Scarlett's home
17 Baker or Pointer
18 Popular pop
19 Like the Gobi
20 Complaint to a physician
23 Pitch of a phrase
24 Former Russian ruler
25 Atlas page
28 Uncooked
29 Have a bite
30 Creative skill
33 Bushy do
35 Squealer
37 Permeate
39 With 56A, physician's reply
43 Eve of "Grease"
44 Inventor Whitney
45 Mary Kay rival
46 Named at birth
47 Entertaining Caesar
50 Actor Gulager
52 Tennis twosome?
53 Diner listing
54 Canadian prov.
56 See 39A
62 "__ in the Morning"
63 Ticklish Muppet
64 Writer Zola
65 Speck
66 Horse holder
67 Not as common
68 Equal
69 Archibald or Thurmond
70 Severe

DOWN
1 Clothed
2 City near Lake Tahoe
3 Of the ear
4 Tag-player's call
5 Captivate
6 Avoidance
7 Destitute
8 "Law & Order" extras
9 Poem division
10 One of a flight
11 Deserve
12 Prissy one
13 Smidgen
21 Tangle
22 "The Sons of __ Elder"
25 Ancient Guatemalan
26 Ere
27 Goody two-shoes
30 Over
31 Apply balm
32 Agers of parents
34 Be obliged to pay
36 Definite article
38 Kingston Trio hit
40 Map in a map
41 Chicago gangster
42 Country house
48 Practical trainee
49 "2001..." star
51 Says
53 Skinflint
55 Point towards
56 Friend of Bardot
57 Pipe sealant
58 Give out
59 Emerald land
60 N.Y. Met or L.A. Dodger
61 Gull cousin
62 Little devil

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

U	B	O	A	T	■	U	T	A	H	■	L	E	A	N
S	U	S	H	I	■	N	O	T	E	■	E	R	L	E
M	Y	H	A	N	D	S	W	E	R	E	T	I	E	D
C	S	A	■	F	A	U	N	■	■	C	H	E	S	S
■	■	■	T	O	R	N	■	A	T	R	A	■	■	■
N	O	T	H	I	N	G	I	C	O	U	L	D	D	O
O	R	I	E	L	■	■	R	I	M	S	■	R	U	M
N	O	N	O	■	E	L	I	D	E	■	M	O	P	E
E	N	C	■	A	L	A	S	■	■	S	E	V	E	N
T	O	T	A	L	L	Y	H	E	L	P	L	E	S	S
■	■	■	L	I	E	S	■	L	A	U	D	■	■	■
A	N	G	L	E	■	■	B	E	L	T	■	U	R	I
B	E	Y	O	N	D	M	Y	C	O	N	T	R	O	L
E	M	M	Y	■	I	C	E	T	■	I	S	S	U	E
T	O	S	S	■	M	I	S	S	■	K	E	A	T	S

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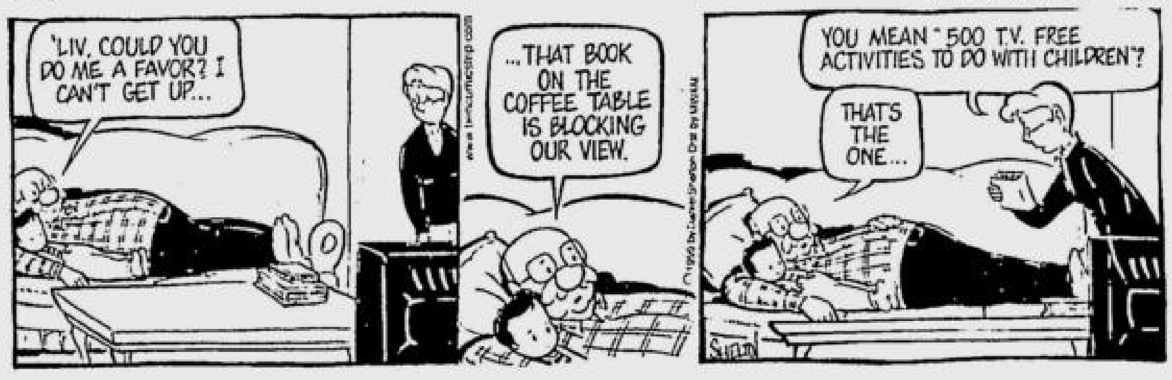
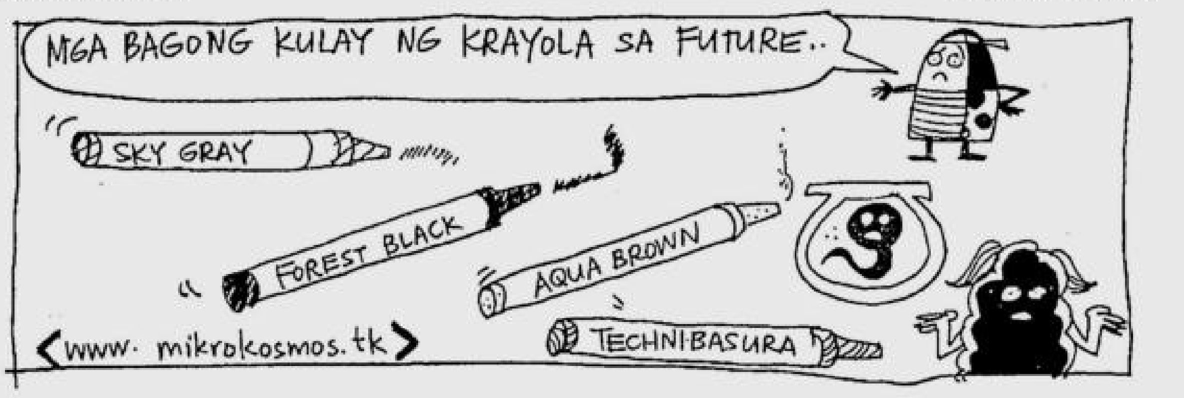
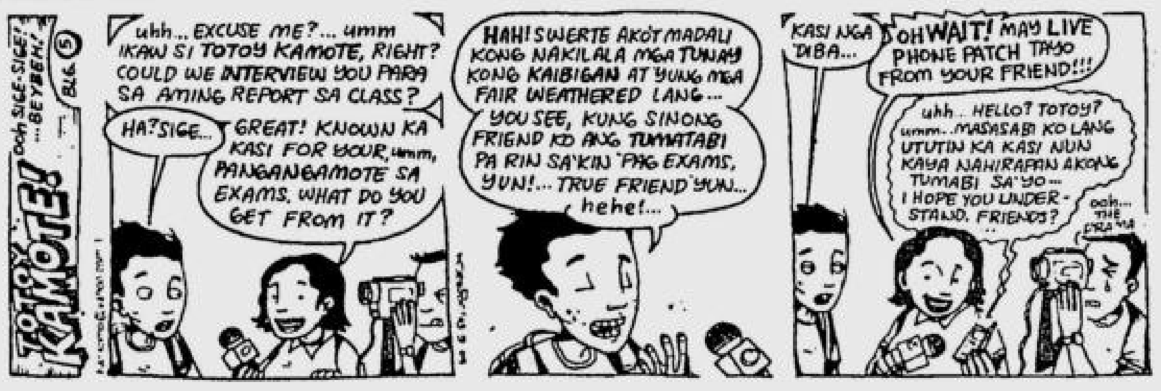
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


'LIV, COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR? I CAN'T GET UP...
...THAT BOOK ON THE COFFEE TABLE IS BLOCKING OUR VIEW.
YOU MEAN "500 T.V. FREE ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH CHILDREN"?
THAT'S THE ONE...

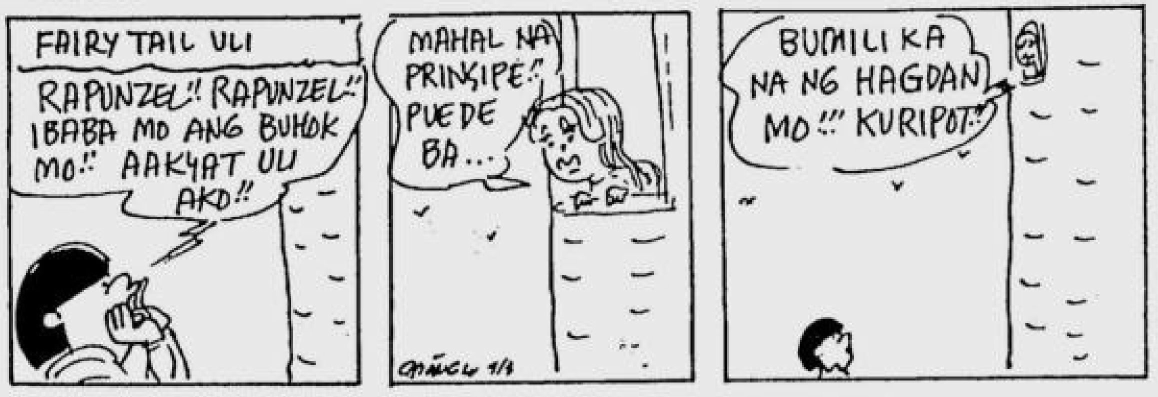
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MGA BAGONG KULAY NG KRAYOLA SA FUTURE..
SKY GRAY
FOREST BLACK
AQUA BROWN
TECHNI-BASURA
<www. mikrokosmos.tk>

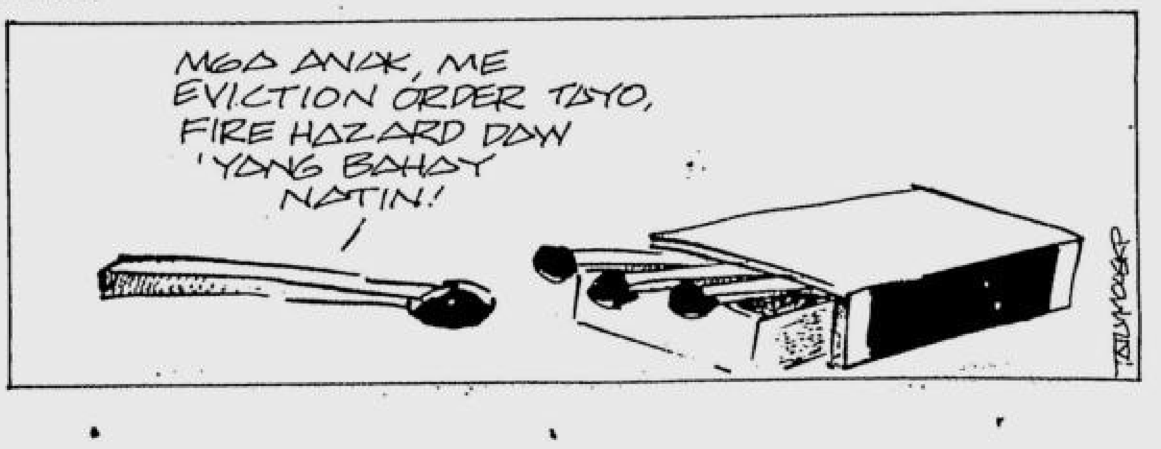
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TOTOY KAMOTE! ooh SIGE-SIGE! ...BEYBEH!
uhh... EXCUSE ME?... umm IKAW SI TOTOY KAMOTE, RIGHT? COULD WE INTERVIEW YOU PARA SA AMING REPORT SA CLASS?
HA? SIGE..
GREAT! KNOWN KA KASI FOR YOUR, umm, PANGANGAMOTE SA EXAMS. WHAT DO YOU GET FROM IT?
HAH! SWERTE AKO'T MADALI KONG NAKILALA MGA TUNAY KONG KAIBIGAN AT YUNG MGA FAIR WEATHERED LANG... YOU SEE, KUNG SINONG FRIEND KO ANG TUMATABI PA RIN SA'KIN 'PAG EXAMS, YUN!... TRUE FRIEND 'YUN... hehe!...
KASI NGA DIBA...
OH WAIT! MAY LIVE PHONE PATCH TAYO FROM YOUR FRIEND!!!
uhh.. HELLO? TOTOY? umm.. MASASABI KO LANG UTUTIN KA KASI NUN KAYA NAHIRAPAN AKONG TUMABI SA'YO... I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND. FRIENDS?
ooh... THE DRAMA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


FAIRY TAIL ULI
RAPUNZEL!! RAPUNZEL!! IBABA MO ANG BUHOK MO!! AAKYAT ULI AKO!!
MAHAL NA PRINSIPE!! PUEDE BA...
BUMILI KA NA NG HAGDAN MO!!! KURIPOT!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MGA ANAK, ME EVICTION ORDER TAYO, FIRE HAZARD DAW 'YONG BAHAY NATIN!

FLAPPER of a cocktail dress

BERIBBONED creation

MUSLIM-INSPIRED

SHEER romance

DECONSTRUCTED finery

Fashion as Pinoy art form

VENETIAN peek-a-boo

From page G1

preserve them."

The show will be divided into 10 segments, including, of course, a focus on the terno and Moreno's elaborate and romantic take on the Filipino wedding. It will also be an occasion for the designer to bask and relive his moments of glory.

In honor of Queen Sofia, for instance, who gave Moreno a warm reception in Spain, he'll show flamenco-like gowns with tight bodices and skirts with lace-tiered hemlines. Other Iberian-inspired creations include gowns worn with the colorful Manton de Manila.

Princess Margaret herself produced Moreno's show in London sometime in 1980, when black and white gowns were all the rage. For a time, the designer also did the costumes of the Bayanihan dancers in the 1960s. Thus, a Maria Clara portion, complete with flowing skirts and embroidered *panuelo*, is in order.

Speaking of the Bayanihan dancers, the show will also feature the group and other CCP resident performers such as the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Philippine Madrigal Singers, Philippine Ballet Theater and Ballet Philippines.

Indeed, it will be an interactive event with Moreno's designs sharing the stage with other artistic forms. For once, fashion design, in the hands of a survivor and seasoned master of reinvention, will be given its rightful due.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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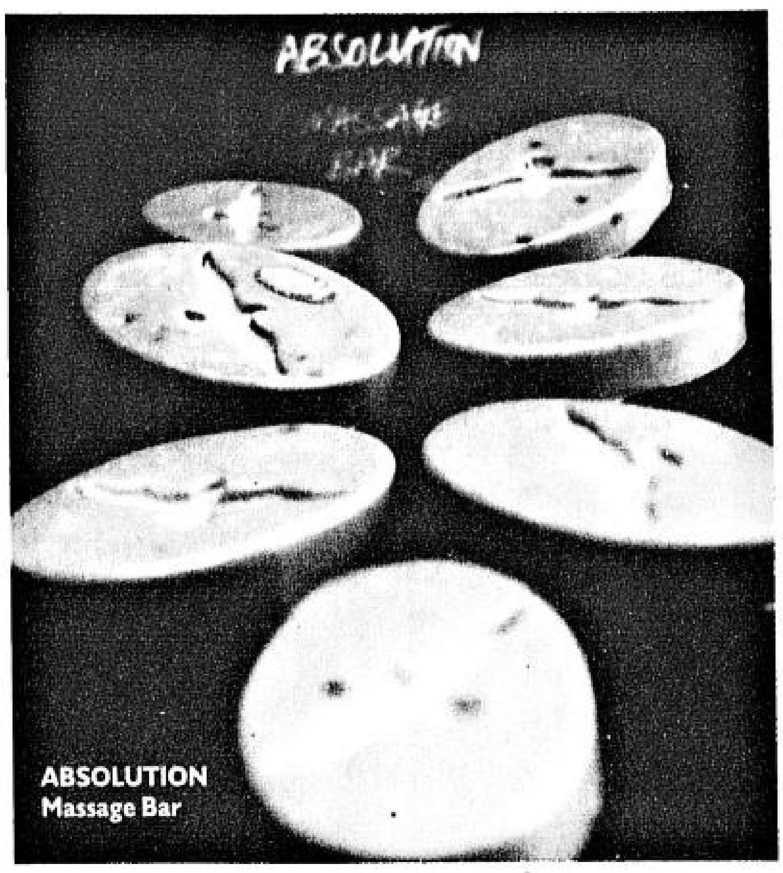

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Each Peach (and Twos A Pear) Massage Bar (P345)—With a fruity fragrance, the massage bar has sweet orange oil, lime oil, mandarin and grapefruit to dispel feelings of gloom and depression and give a positive new outlook on life. Ingredients are Fair Trade cocoa butter, shea butter, perfume, avocado butter, mango kernel butter, lime oil, sweet orange oil, mandarin oil, grapefruit oil, saffron.

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